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Leading to arrest and conviction of **Andre Perceval**, who is wanted for **murder** and **several other serious offenses**.

He is currently being **investigated** by the **Serious Crimes Unit**.




He is known to frequent: **Dock Yard, Snake Hill, La Tortue Village, and Five Cays, Providenciales**.

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Relief, Closure PG3



WizdomCRM Launches Stock Market Game and AI Education Platform in Turks and Caicos



TCI'S Sole Light and Power Company Fortis sold and will now operate under the name-change Pelican Energy

SEE PAGE 5

“YOU WILL NOT WIN”

Police Commissioner Issues Stern Warning After Death of TCI's Most Wanted Fugitive

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FUNERAL PROCESSION FOR CONSTABLE PARKER

The funeral service for Constable Kenneth Parker was held at the Bethany Baptist Church in Blue Hills, Providenciales on Friday, September 5, 2025. Constable Parker’s body was ushered from the Police Headquarters, Airport Road, Downtown Providenciales to the church, where the funeral service was held. The constable was found dead in his vehicle on August 3, 2025, from what appeared to be stab wounds. A suspect was held in connection



\$10,000.00

CASH REWARD FOR CREDIBLE INFORMATION

Leading to arrest and conviction of Andral Perceval, who is wanted for murder and several other serious offences. He is currently being investigated by the Serious Crimes Unit.

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A Wanted Poster of Andral Percival

The death of Turks and Caicos Islands' most wanted man, Andral "Andre" Percival, in a fatal police confrontation on Sunday, August 31, has brought a wave of relief to communities long terrorized by his violent reign. The 27-year-old fugitive, who had eluded law enforcement for more than two years, was killed in a gunbattle with

police in the Miracle Close area of Blue Hills shortly after midday. According to police, Percival opened fire when officers closed in, prompting them to return fire. He was fatally wounded at the scene. Police Commissioner Fitz Bailey confirmed that Percival had been responsible for at least 13 murders since

Relief, Closure

Community Members Give Reflection the death of TCI's Most Murderous Criminal

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

2022, including the brutal killings of two brothers in Blue Hills, along with a string of rapes, robberies, and home invasions. "This was not just an arrest of a criminal; this was the end of a terror campaign," Commissioner Bailey said. "The people of Turks and Caicos can now sleep a little easier."

Percival's Reign of Fear

For residents of Blue Hills, Wheeland, and Kew Town, Percival's name had become synonymous with fear. Families shuttered themselves indoors after dark, businesses closed early, and some residents fled the neighborhoods altogether.

One Blue Hills resident, who gave his name only as Michael, said the sense of dread was constant. "We were living in fear every single day," Michael said. "Every gunshot, every scream, you wondered if it was Percival again. Now we can finally breathe."

The psychological toll was heavy, particularly after Percival allegedly threatened to kill police officers, including the Commissioner himself. Authorities launched heightened security operations across Providenciales in response. Sunday's confrontation came just four days after a dramatic shootout in the same area on August 27, when Percival escaped but one of his accomplices was killed. That close call had left residents rattled and fearing a violent retaliation. A Kew Town shopkeeper, who initial we will give as "MJ", described the relief she felt when she heard Percival was no longer a threat.

"To be honest, I cried when I heard he was gone," the shopkeeper said. "I have lost customers because people were too afraid to even come here. It's been like living in uncertainty and fear."

Closure for Victims' Families

Percival's death has also brought a measure of closure for families who lost loved ones to his violence. Police say he was behind multiple unsolved murders, including drive-by shootings, execution-style killings, and targeted attacks on rivals. Two of the victims, brothers gunned down in Blue Hills last year, had families who have since spoken of living with unrelenting grief.

One relative, who asked not to be named, said Sunday's events marked the end of a painful chapter.

"We can't get back what we lost," the relative said, "but at least we know jus-

tice came in the end. We don't have to fear him anymore."

Relief in the Community

The sense of relief extended across Providenciales, where Percival's criminal activity had disrupted schools, churches, and community gatherings. A Wheeland resident, whose initial we will use as "DF", expressed gratitude to the police for ending what he called "a nightmare."

"He destroyed families, he destroyed peace of mind," he said. "The community was dying slowly because of him. Now, maybe we can start to heal." Another resident, "JC", said she is hopeful that young people will now think twice about following Percival's path. "He was a terror, but some youths saw him as a kind of legend," Clarke explained. "Now they see where it ends — in the grave. Maybe this will change some minds."

A Nation on Edge

The police operation that ended Percival's life followed months of high tension across the islands. Just weeks earlier, investigators tied his associate, 19-year-old wanted man Jaheim Forbes, to a July 27 nightclub mass shooting that left four dead. Forbes was later killed by police in Five Cays, Providenciales on August 26, 2025, further inflaming tensions.

Percival allegedly swore vengeance for Forbes' death, issuing threats against officers that forced the force into round-the-clock operations.

Commissioner Bailey said Sunday's outcome underscores the force's commitment to protecting law-abiding citizens. "We will pursue criminals wherever they hide," he said. "No one is above the law."

Percival's Death Marks Rebuilding Trust, Safety

For Blue Hills and Kew Town, the death of Percival marks the end of an era defined by fear, but also the beginning of a long road to rebuilding trust and restoring safety.

As evening fell on Sunday, residents gathered quietly in groups outside homes and shops, discussing the news. There was no celebration, only quiet relief.

"We've lost too many to guns already," a Blue Hills resident, reflected. "This is not about joy. It's about finally being able to hope for peace again."

With the fall of its most notorious fugitive, Turks and Caicos now turns to the task of healing wounds, rebuilding communities, and ensuring that no one like Percival ever rises again.

Digicel

A Dynamic Mobile Service provider seeks to recruit for the following post:

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REQUIRED SKILLS AND SPECIALIZED TECHNIQUES:

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- Previous/ Current international experience will be an advantage.

Positions open to all qualified Turks and Caicos nationals. Salary range from \$110,000.00 -120,000.00 per annum. Interested applicants can forward their resumes to hrtci@digicelgroup.com . The closing date for applications is September 5,2025



A student assists the two WisdomCRM representatives, Charielle Plowden (right) and Katrina Geetoah, during the launch in Providenciales on Thursday.



Minister of Education, Youth, Sports, and Culture Hon. Rachel Taylor presents a student with a prize at the launch of WizdomCRM at the launch of the platform in Providenciales on Thursday, September 4

WizdomCRM Launches Stock Market Game and AI Education Platform in Turks and Caicos

The future of education in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) took a bold step forward this past week as WizdomCRM, a regional artificial intelligence-driven education technology company, officially launched its Sustainable Virtual Stock Market Game and AI-powered learning platforms across the territory.

The initiative, introduced on every island in the TCI with a secondary school population, is designed to strengthen financial literacy, boost academic performance, and prepare students for life beyond the classroom. Corporate sponsorships ensure that access is free and equitable, regardless of socio-economic background.

Founded during the COVID-19 pandemic, WizdomCRM is headquartered in Trinidad and Tobago and now operates across five territories: Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Barbados, Jamaica, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The company became regionally recognized for its pioneering Stock Market Game, which has already reached more than 14,000 students.

Sharielle Plowden, WizdomCRM's Country Manager for TCI, explained that her role includes building corporate partnerships and directly engaging students through school tours and outreach.

"The competition teaches children how to budget, save, and invest using artificial intelligence," Plowden told NewslineTCI.

"They also gain academic support from our eight animated AI tutors, who assist with subjects like mathematics, science, English language, and reading comprehension, particularly for CSEC and CAPE preparation."

The Stock Market Game originated during the pandemic, when the Ministry of Education in Trinidad and Tobago issued a call for digital initiatives to keep students engaged at home. WizdomCRM, leveraging its financial expertise, introduced the competition, which quickly spread across the Caribbean with ministry approvals in four countries before reaching TCI.

"We don't put a cap on how many students can join," Plowden said.

"We align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of Quality Education for All. Corporate partners adopt

schools and pay for access, so every student can participate."

Corporate supporters include Rubis in Turks and Caicos, Ansa McAL in Trinidad, Scotiabank, CIBC, and several energy companies across the region.

Stories of Transformation

Plowden highlighted student success stories from previous territories. In Trinidad, Alloy Sammi turned heartbreak into inspiration after losing his grandmother to COVID-19 and his home to a fire. Competing through four cycles before winning, Sammi earned US\$1,500, which he used toward his education. Today, he studies at the University of the West Indies, training to become a stockbroker.

In Guyana, another student discovered a love for finance and began teaching his family and friends about investments after excelling in the program. Another competitor, David Sanchez, initially finished last but rebounded after learning how global events, including U.S. elections, affect markets. His resilience eventually propelled him into the winner's circle.

Barbados also saw transformation, with students moving from little to no knowledge of investing to becoming "financial whizzes."

"In TCI, students are already quite knowledgeable," Plowden noted. "Their teachers are doing an excellent job. But with WizdomCRM's tools, we expect to see a generation of wealthy investors in the next two to three years as these young people graduate."

Minister Taylor: 'This is the Future of Education'

At the launch ceremony, Hon. Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, underscored the significance of the program, describing it as a "future-forward initiative" that equips students not just for exams but for the world beyond school.

"Today we officially launch the Sustainable Virtual Stock Market Game and the Eagle Eye platform," Taylor declared. "Students, this will not only change how you learn, but also how you think, make decisions, and prepare for life beyond the classroom."

Taylor emphasized inclusivity, ensuring both public and private school students

could participate. Approximately 1,000 students across seven secondary schools are expected to take part in the initial rollout. Each will be granted \$25,000 in virtual capital to invest, strategize, and navigate global markets in real time.

"This is an opportunity for you to learn how money works and understand how sustainable investments can shape your future," the Minister said. "It builds confidence in financial decision-making, strengthens critical thinking, and develops digital literacy skills needed in today's world."

The Minister praised local educators for seizing the opportunity and encouraged students to embrace the challenge.

"Let this be your moment to explore to question, to take risks, and to learn from them," she urged. "You are entering a dynamic world of markets, investments, sus-

tainability, and strategy, all within the safety of a learning environment."

Taylor thank WizdomCRM for its collaboration and revealed that robotics programs will also be introduced in schools later this year.

"This is the future of education," she said. "And it starts right here, right now, in the Turks and Caicos Islands."

Minister of Innovation, Technology and Information Hon. E. Jay Saunders, who also attended the event, encouraged the children to embrace technology, pointing to the fact that there were numerous persons around the world who became billionaires through technology.

He quipped also that on the campaign trail in February this year, he promised to create a number of billionaires across the Turks and Caicos Islands.



Minister of Technology, Innovation and Information Hon. E. Jay Saunders presents a student with a prize at the WizdomCRM launch in Proivenciales.



The Fortis Corporate Office on Providenciales

Fortis Sold To Vision Ridge Partners

Light and Power Company Rebrands as 'Pelican Energy TCI'

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

After months of mounting speculation, FortisTCI has confirmed that it has been acquired by Vision Ridge Partners, a U.S.-based global investor specializing in sustainable real assets.

The acquisition marks a significant shift in the Turks and Caicos Islands' energy sector and comes with an immediate rebranding of the utility under a new name, 'Pelican Energy TCI'. The announcement, made earlier this week, ends weeks of uncertainty about the fate of the electricity provider, which supplies power to homes and businesses across the Turks and Caicos Islands. For months, rumors of a sale had circulated, sparking concern among employees and customers alike. Now, with the deal officially sealed, the company is looking to assure the public that service reliability and stability will remain unchanged.

Continuity in Leadership and Service

Despite the change in ownership, FortisTCI's longtime President and CEO, Ruth Forbes, will remain at the helm of the company in its new chapter as Pelican Energy TCI. In a statement, Forbes pledged that customers would see no disruption in their energy services during or after the transition.

"Your energy services will not be impacted by this transition," Forbes emphasized in a statement. "Under Vision Ridge's ownership, Pelican Energy TCI will continue to provide the safe, reliable electricity service you have come to expect."

She further highlighted that the company is committed to working closely

with government officials, business partners, and community leaders to both maintain and modernize the grid.

"We're collaborating with key stakeholders across TCI to maintain and improve our infrastructure as the country's economic and energy landscape evolves," Forbes said. "Vision Ridge brings extensive experience in transforming complex energy businesses in different geographies, and together we will continue supporting our customers and the entire TCI community."

Forbes described the transaction as "a major milestone for our business," thanking customers for their continued trust and support as the company embarks on what she described as a "new era" under its rebranded identity.

Employee Uncertainty and Market Speculation

While the announcement provided much-needed clarity, it also confirmed what many insiders had long suspected, that FortisTCI was in advanced negotiations for a sale. For several months, speculation was rife within local business circles, though few officials were willing to comment publicly.

That lack of transparency created unease among employees. NewslineTCI understands that some staff, unnerved by the uncertainty, had even begun quietly seeking alternative employment. One employee, speaking anonymously, remarked that the constant speculation "was driving some of the employees nuts."

Though the new ownership has been formalized, questions remain about

the future direction of the company and, importantly, about job security for its workforce. Neither Forbes nor Vision Ridge Partners have given specific guarantees regarding staff retention or possible restructuring.

A Company with a History of Re-branding

This transition also marks the third time in less than two decades that the electricity provider has changed its identity. The company was originally known as Provo Power Company (PPC), a name long associated with the early days of electricity service in Providenciales. In 2009, following its acquisition by Canadian-based Fortis Inc., it was rebranded as FortisTCI.

Now, with the backing of Vision Ridge, the utility enters another phase under the banner of Pelican Energy TCI, a name that nods to both the national bird of the Turks and Caicos and the company's renewed emphasis on sustainability and local identity.

Vision Ridge Partners has not publicly disclosed the terms of the acquisition, nor has it outlined its long-term strategic plan for the Turks and Caicos Islands. The firm, however, has an established track record of investing in clean energy and sustainable infrastructure projects globally. Analysts suggest that its involvement could open doors for increased integration of renewable energy solutions in the islands, though such initiatives remain to be confirmed.

For now, the message from leadership is one of continuity, stability, and gradual improvement. Pelican Energy TCI insists that its customers will continue to receive uninterrupted

service while the company evaluates future opportunities under its new ownership.

An employee told Newsline that the uncertainty surrounding the workforce and the lack of detail about the company's immediate strategic direction mean that many employees and customers are waiting with bated breath to see which direction the new owners will take the country's sole light and power company.



Ruth Forbes has been retained as the President and CEO of the former Fortis, now Pelican Energy

BACKGROUND TO EARLY CONSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT IN THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

By Dr. Carlton Mills

In May 1973, at the request of the then State Council, Lord Oxford, the Earl of Oxford and Asquith, was appointed Constitutional Commissioner for the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI). His role according to the United Nations Report (1974), was “to examine the various paths of constitutional evolution opened to the Territory, taking account of the people and the realities of the local situation.” This visit took place from October 27th – December 11th, 1973. The Report was published in October 1974. The Report found that the 1969 State Council System model was not suitable for the islands. Lord Oxford also noted that this model did not give enough powers to members of the State Council. This gave rise to members of the State Council making a formal request for constitutional change. He also noted that a group of people in the TCI was of the view that the Governor had excessive powers and that this should be curtailed, particularly the power to act contrary to the advice of the Council. Additionally, it was also argued that certain decisions including those related to the public service should be subjected to consultation. Furthermore, he recommended that the Governor should keep the Executive Council informed of any matters that might involve the economic or financial interests of the Territory or the enactment of laws.

He also recommended that in relation to the power of the Governor acting contrary to the advice of the Executive Council, quoting from the Constitution of the Cayman Island, that “The Governor shall act in accordance with the advice given him by the Council unless he considers it inexpedient in the interest of public order, public faith or good government to do so.” He also made these additional recommendations:

- Members of the Legislative Assembly be elected for a four-year term of office.
- The number of elected members be increased from 9 to 10 and of nominated members from 2 or 3 to 4.
- The Speaker of The Legislative Assembly be elected by its members.
- The voting age be lowered from 21 years to 19 years.

In response to these recommendations, members of the State Council invited Mr. William Herbert, Barrister of the Supreme Court of the Associated States, to make a critical analysis of Lord Oxford’s proposals for constitutional advancement and to endeavour to ascertain whether their implementation would result in a constitutional framework in line with what the people of the TCI wanted.

It is also believed that this visit was paid for by Hon. Norman Saunders and Hon. A.V. Butterfield who were also believed to have been the forces behind this request. At one stage, Hon. Saunders also paid a visit to St.

Kitts to hold further talks with Mr. Herbert on this matter.

During his visit, Mr. Herbert made the following observations.

- The objective of the constitutional reform should be the creation of a constitution which would fit the patterns of the changing times and would not become outdated in the near future.
- The people of the TCI should play an active part in the effective machinery of government.
- The new constitution should also include a section dealing with the fundamental rights of the people.
- Ministerial system of government should be introduced.
- There should be a clear delimitation of the powers of the Governor
- A maximum term of four years for the Legislative Assembly should be set.
- He also favoured the reduction of the voting age to 18 years and the avoidance of the concept ‘belonging’ when considering qualifications for elected members.

The United Nations report also noted that a resolution was unanimously adopted by the State Council on November 7th, 1973 which the preamble stated that the people of the Territory (TCI) demanded a greater say in and responsibility for their own affairs; that to achieve these objectives, a ministerial system was essential and that the formation of committees under the present constitution was necessary to provide experience in the work of projected ministers.

The State Council also called for a constitutional conference to be held in the TCI not later than March 1975. They also requested that the Governor establish four committees to deal with the following subjects:-

- Administration and Education
- Social welfare
- Public works and Developments
- Revenue and Resources

The British Government’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), also appointed Mr. Patrick Duff to engage with the TCI in respect to constitutional changes. Following these discussions, the British Government, towards the end of 1975, agreed to the final proposals for a new constitution for the territory. This constitution ushered in Ministerial Government and came into effect on August 30th, 1976. It was established by the Turks and Caicos (Constitution) Order, 1976. Despite these representations, it must also be noted that the late, Rt. Hon. J.A.G.S. McCartney also through his movement The Junkanoo Club, played a vital role in these developments. This group was not a part of the government of the day but made their desire for constitutional advancement loud and clear. Several demonstrations took place which involved members of the group including their stand with the Nurses in Grand Turk and their protest outside of the Governor’s Office at Waterloo demanding constitutional change.

As you may have determined from the foregoing, the argument or the groundwork for Ministerial Government did not commence in 1975/76. The late Hon. Paul Higgs, Hon. Gustavus Lightbourne, Hon William Mills and several others, since the proposed constitution in 1959 (which came into effect in 1962), agitated for ministerial government and political parties to be included as a part of the framework of that document. It is believed that they wanted to adopt certain of these features from the constitution of Jamaica since the TCI was being administered by Jamaica at the time. Unfortunately,

ly, the British Government felt that the TCI was not yet ready for such developments. On November 5th, 1965, a constitutional amendment came into effect by virtue of which (a) the Governor of the Bahamas also became Governor of the TCI (b) appeals from the court in the TCI would now be heard in the Bahamas and not in Jamaica as was previously the case.

In June 1969, a new constitution was introduced ushering in the State Council model. There was an amendment in April 1973 as the Bahamas was proceeding towards independence. This amendment allowed for the TCI to have their own Governor located in Grand Turk as the appointment of the Governor of the Bahamas as Governor of the TCI was terminated.

There are some in the TCI who still believe that the constitutional arrangements for the TCI has its birth during the formation of the one in 1976. This article tries to show that many of our forefathers were engaged in constitutional advancement since the mid-1950’s with several amendments taking place over the years.

There is still talk in the TCI about the question of ‘belonging’ when considering qualifications for elected membership as was proposed by Mr. William Herbert in his report. We have seen this play out in one instance where an individual had been appointed to the Legislative Council as the Governor’s Appointed member. Questions have also been raised about the birth places of certain elected members to the House of Assembly. Mr. Herbert seemed to have had the foresight of such a development almost fifty years ago when he made such a suggestion. It can also be observed that the debate for the advancement of the 1976 constitution was not the responsibility of a single individual but rather, efforts exerted by a number of individuals and groups alike with a common goal – the ability of the TCI to determine their own destiny. The key issue here is to ensure that we look back and acknowledge all the key players in the development and advancement of our constitution. These changes were not overnight.

They took years of planning, determination, commitment and dedication by individuals and groups. These changes speak volumes to the desires, principles and morals of a people with a strong will power and outlook for the future of these islands.

It is also believed that if we are to continue the path of constitutional advancement, a more concerted effort of togetherness is the recipe for ongoing change in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

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Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department



Genesis PII TCI Ltd As Chargee pursuant to its charge and the registered land ordinance , hereby gives notice that it will cause to be sold the property listed below by public auction, to be held at the Office of Stanbrook Prudhoe , address: 3rd Floor Graceway House,Graceway plaza Providenciales Turks and Caicos Island at 11 AM on September 5th 2025

Location	Unit 1033 - 38 Marlin Street Providenciales, TCI
Description	The subject property located in phase one of the One on Marlin development which comprises a total of 35 self-contained apartments situated in 10 detached villas.
Title	60717-107K11
Proprietor	Tamika Thompson

A reserved price will be fixed on the parcel and a deposit of 10% is due immediately upon accepted bid. Conditions of Sale available upon request or at the Auction.Terms And conditions of sale by public Auction are available by request form



Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam

GOVERNOR LAUNCHES HIGH-LEVEL RECRUITMENT FOR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Her Excellency the Governor, Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, advises the public that the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr. Philip Bennetts KC, will demit office on 6th October 2025. During his tenure, Mr. Bennetts KC has demonstrated committed leadership in upholding prosecutorial standards and ensuring the fair administration of justice. The Governor extends her appreciation for his contributions and wishes him well in his future endeavours. A competitive recruitment process will now commence to appoint the next Director of Public Prosecutions. This cornerstone position in the justice system of the Turks and Caicos Islands is essential to safeguarding the rule of law and ensuring the fair administration of justice. This process will identify a leader with outstanding legal expertise, leadership and strategic vision necessary to strengthen the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) and ensure it is fully equipped to meet the demands of a challenging criminal justice environ-

ment. Her Excellency the Governor said: “We are in no doubt about the importance of a strong, effective and fearless prosecution service- especially at a time when public safety and justice outcomes are under significant pressure. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions plays a vital role in upholding the rule of law and ensuring that those who commit serious crimes are held accountable. I thank Mr. Bennetts KC for his service and acknowledge his efforts to strengthen the prosecution service during his tenure. The recruitment of a new Director is a critical priority. The next phase must focus on reinforcing the capabilities of the Office, driving prosecutorial performance and ensuring public confidence in the delivery of justice.” Full details about the post and the application process will be released shortly on the Turks and Caicos Islands Government website at <https://www.gov.tc/government-vacancies>.

GABRIELLE WILLIAMS APPOINTED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CONTRACTS AND CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The Office of the Deputy Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands is proud to announce the appointment of Ms. Gabrielle Williams as the new Assistant Director of the Contracts and Corporate Performance Management Department within the Office of the Deputy Governor. Ms. Williams began her academic journey by earning an Associate Degree in General Studies (Humanities) from TCICC, where she proudly served as the Valedictorian of the Class of 2015. She continued her educational pursuits at the University of the West Indies Mona Campus, graduating in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in International Relations (Hons). In August 2024, she achieved her Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) certification from the Project Management Institute. Additionally, she is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Management Studies, specialising in Project Management, at the University of the West Indies, with support from the Professional Development Fund. Ms. Williams joined the Public Service in February 2019 as a Procurement Officer and was promoted to Procurement Manager in August 2022, a role she held until her recent appointment. She has



Gabrielle Williams

also made her mark as an Adjunct Lecturer at TCICC’s Faculty of Humanities and Liberal Studies, where she teaches various Government and Politics courses. In reflecting on her new role, Ms. Williams shared: “I give all glory to God for His guidance and the grace to grow into every opportunity He has placed before me. Vi-

ola Davis once said, ‘You cannot live to please everyone else. You have to edify, educate and fulfil your own dreams and destiny.’ This message reminds me to stay grounded in who I am and to live with intention, always mindful of the impact I have and the purpose that guides me. I am thankful for the path that brought me here and look forward to contributing to the continued growth of

my department and the wider Turks and Caicos Islands Government and its entities. I also carry sincere appreciation for my family, friends, colleagues, and the dedicated CCPMD team, whose support and belief in me have brought so much meaning to this journey.” Deputy Governor and Head of the Public Service, Hon. Anya Williams, remarked: “It is with great pleasure that I officially extend congratulations to Ms. Gabrielle Williams on her recent appointment as Assistant Director of the Contracts and Corporate Performance Management (Procurement) Department within the Office of the Deputy Governor. Ms. Williams’ unwavering dedication and proven track record make her an excellent choice for this critical role. I am confident that she will continue to uphold and elevate the standards of our public service. We look forward to her continued contributions as she takes on this new responsibility and plays a key role in strengthening the effectiveness of our Contracts and Corporate Performance Management efforts. Congratulations once again, Ms. Williams, on your well-deserved promotion!”



Police Commissioner Fitz Bailey and his executive team are captured at the camera, announcing the death of one of the TCI's most wanted criminal Andral Percival.

“You Will Not Win”

Police Commissioner Issues Stern Warning After Death of TCI's Most Wanted Fugitive

Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force Commissioner Fitz Bailey has issued a stark warning to armed criminals, declaring that they will not emerge victorious if they choose to confront law enforcement officers. His remarks came days after the fatal police shooting of the territory's most wanted man, Andral Percival, who was killed following a gunfight with officers in Blue Hills.

“Do not challenge our officers. Surrender when you are instructed to do it,” Commissioner Bailey said in a national address. “Our officers must always come out as the winner.”

The Commissioner described Percival's death as the violent conclusion to one of the darkest chapters in the nation's recent history. He confirmed that police responded to reports in the Blue Hills area on Sunday, August 31, 2025, which culminated in the deadly exchange of gunfire. While investigations are ongoing, Bailey said he would not disclose further operational details.

A Reign of Terror

According to police, Percival had been on the run for years, orchestrating a campaign of violence and fear across Providenciales. He was linked to no fewer than 14 murders dating back to 2021, in addition to multiple rapes, robberies, burglaries, and kidnappings.

“His actions devastated families, corrupted young minds, and disrupted the peace of the Blue Hills and Duck Yard communities,” Bailey stated. “This incident marked the conclusion of a long and violent chapter.”

Percival's criminal network suffered another major blow just days earlier, on

August 27, when one of his associates was shot and killed by police during a separate operation.

“We Will Take the Fight to Gunmen”

Commissioner Bailey emphasized that the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) remains relentless in its crackdown on gangs and firearms. He vowed that officers will remain proactive, using both targeted operations and intelligence-led policing to dismantle organized crime.

“We will continue to target illicit guns, gunmen, and gangs,” he declared. “We will take the fight to gangs and gunmen. Our intentions are to make Turks and Caicos Islands safe so our citizens will be able to move about free from crime and the fear thereof. No amounts of threats or acts of intimidation will deter our efforts.”

Bailey acknowledged that the territory has endured an unprecedented surge in violent crime in recent years, but insisted that the tide is turning. He assured the public that patrols are being increased, intelligence operations enhanced, and collaboration with community leaders strengthened.

A Call for Unity

In his statement, the Commissioner urged residents to unite against criminal influence and resist divisive rhetoric. He called on citizens to remain vigilant, report suspicious activity, and work hand in hand with law enforcement to protect neighborhoods.

“These moments call for reflection and shared responsibility,” Bailey said. “We urge every resident to remain vigilant, report crimes, and stand united against

criminal influence. Together, we must protect the sanctity of our neighbours and build communities that are safe, resilient, and free from fear.”

He stressed that defeating violent crime will require a united front. “It is not time for rhetorics that will divide us. Now is the time for a united front against bad actors within our communities.”

Reassurance and Resolve

Bailey reassured residents that their safety remains the force's top priority and praised the courage and commitment of officers who risk their lives daily. He pledged that the RTCIPF will remain steadfast in defending law-abiding citizens and bringing offenders to justice.

“The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force stands with you, and we will continue to serve with integrity, courage, and unwavering commitment,” he affirmed. “We will not relent until the Turks and Caicos Islands are safe for everyone.”

The Commissioner closed with a stern warning to any remaining armed criminals: “To those who continue to engage in criminal activities, this is your warning. The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force is focused and unmoved. We will act decisively to protect our people and restore peace. Do not challenge our officers. Surrender when you are instructed to do it. You will not win.” Percival's death marks a significant milestone in the fight against violent crime in the Turks and Caicos Islands, but Bailey made clear that the battle is far from over. For the Commissioner and his force, the mission is simple but unwavering: restore peace, protect the in-

nocent, and ensure that gunmen never walk away the winners.

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Craft Space set-up



Craft Vendors 3 Generations

Beaches Turks & Caicos Islands’ training relationship continues with Craft Vendors

In a region where tourism is central to economic vitality, Beaches Turks & Caicos continues to establish long-standing relationships with local entrepreneurs. The resort is helping to build resilience in the Turks and Caicos Islands through collaboration, training and shared opportunities. For decades, the Cultural Marketplace which is located adjacent to the resort has served as a platform for local craft vendors, many of whom have been honing their trade for over 30 years. These artisans benefit from consistent access to resort guests and tailored industry training in areas such as customer service, marketing and product display. Esther Williams, a vendor with more than 35 years in the industry, praised the collaboration between the resort and her colleagues. “Much of my success is directly linked to Beaches Turks & Caicos. From equipment support to training and a steady customer base, the resort has played a major role in my journey.” She added that, outside of the pandemic years, Beaches has consistently offered stable business opportunities year-round. This impact has created a relational bond. Managing Director James McAnally spoke to the resort’s intention. “The vendors are an extension of the Beaches experience. When we invest in their growth, we’re investing in the future of the Turks & Caicos. It’s a relationship built on listening, respect and shared purpose.” That shared purpose has led to a strong sense of community. Valman “Conch King” Forbes, a popular vendor at the Marketplace, described the relationship as a “dream team” dynamic.

“The training we receive, especially in upselling and customer service, has helped not just our businesses, but our lives. We feel like family and that unity shows in how we work and succeed together.” Karen Cox, another veteran entrepreneur, echoed the following sentiments: “This collaboration has long been an economic pillar. Beaches Turks & Caicos continues to spread its impact to our communities and drives growth in the economy. Their openness and communication help us understand

our role in the wider hospitality industry.” Beyond economic support, mentorship is also included. Daphne Williams, a vendor whose daughters and granddaughter now share the business, reflected on how Beaches has helped them evolve. “This industry is dynamic. We’ve had to adapt to changing markets and consumer preferences and Beaches has made that possible by giving us the space to innovate and expand. Our three generations in this business speak to the strength of this re-

lationship.” Vendors at the Cultural Marketplace welcome resort guests daily. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays- they sell directly on the resort grounds. This access helps artisans reach a wider audience and further showcases the rich cultural heritage of the islands. The collaboration between Beaches Turks & Caicos and local entrepreneurs is a powerful example of how tourism, can create shared success and sustainable development for all players involved.



Karen and team - Craft vendors

The Turks and Caicos Islands to Host Inaugural CaribCon this October

This October, the Turks and Caicos Islands will host the inaugural CaribCon, a groundbreaking gathering designed to showcase Caribbean culture, content, and creativity while connecting the region's most dynamic voices in media, influence, and innovation.

Scheduled for October 23rd – 26th, 2025, at The Shore Club Resort in Long Bay, Providenciales, CaribCon will bring together influencers, content creators, media professionals, marketers, and brands from across the Caribbean and diaspora to learn, connect, and collaborate.

The event is the vision of Omega Simmons, founder of SOS Media, whose Bahamian roots and Turks and Caicos heritage fuel her passion for Caribbean culture and creativity. CaribCon was created as a bold platform to fuel the growth of the Orange Economy in the Caribbean, positioning the Turks and Caicos Islands as a vibrant hub of cultural and creative influence.

"The Turks and Caicos Islands is celebrat-

ed worldwide for its pristine beaches and luxury tourism, but what the world should also see is the richness of our creative community. Our singers, storytellers, designers, and digital creators stand shoulder to shoulder with the best of the Caribbean. Hosting CaribCon here is about showing that Turks and Caicos is not only a premier tourism destination, but also a hub where culture, creativity, and innovation can thrive.

"Our region is known for its music and dance, but we are also comedians, innovators, designers, thespians, visual artists, storytellers, and digital creators. CaribCon is not just about showcasing talent; it's about access. It's about building bridges to global industries, so that our creatives are not only celebrated, but also supported, empowered, and positioned to monetise their craft on the world stage. This is the piece we've been missing, and that's the heart of why CaribCon exists."

CaribCon will feature four days of immersive programming, including dy-

namic panels, hands-on workshops, live brand activations, a TikTok Turks and Caicos Takeover, curated networking opportunities, and cultural showcases that celebrate the region's unique spirit. All of this will unfold against the stunning backdrop of the Turks and Caicos Islands, home to the world-famous, award-winning Grace Bay Beach. The setting provides an ideal stage for participants to immerse themselves in both innovation and inspiration, with the islands' natural beauty enhancing the cultural and creative energy of the event. Attendees can expect to be inspired by bold voices shaping the future of media and influence, connect with creators, communicators, and brands, discover innovative ways to monetise creativity and expand their platforms, and participate in a movement dedicated to amplifying Caribbean creativity on the global stage.

Registration for CaribCon opens September 1st, 2025. Travel details will be published in the first week of Septem-

ber.

For more information please email: contact@caribcon.co.



The project is the brainchild of local media practitioner Omega Simmons, founder of SOS Media.

Turks and Caicos: A Luxury Destination Under Question

An Op-Ed By Benneth Williams

High prices, poor infrastructure, and safety concerns leave visitors wondering if paradise is worth the cost

The Turks and Caicos Islands is often marketed as one of the Caribbean's premier high-end destinations a paradise of turquoise waters, luxury resorts, and world-class experiences. On paper, that sounds like the perfect getaway. But when we take a closer look at the reality on the ground, the question arises: are we truly living up to the expectations of a high-end destination?

Luxury destinations around the world are not defined only by beaches and hotels. They are built on service, infrastructure, and reliability. Visitors expect not just breathtaking scenery, but also comfort, convenience, and safety. Unfortunately, in Turks and Caicos, many of these essential pieces are falling short.

Infrastructure Issues

A stroll around Providenciales quickly reveals sidewalks overrun with weeds, poorly maintained public spaces, and basic road infrastructure in need of attention. Streetlights

are broken or non-existent, leaving residents and visitors alike uncomfortable walking at night. Roads lack proper markings and directional signage, creating confusion for drivers and posing a safety hazard.

In a destination that promotes itself as premium, these are glaring contradictions. Road Safety Concerns Driving standards are another concern. Many visitors describe the roads as chaotic, with uncontrolled driving, illegal operators, and little visible enforcement of traffic rules. Tourists, who may already be anxious about driving on the left-hand side, are often left feeling unsafe. For a country that relies so heavily on tourism, ensuring road safety and order should be a top priority. Service and Cleanliness Service is another cornerstone of a luxury experience. Guests paying premium prices expect service providers to communicate clearly and professionally.

Too often, however, visitors encounter service workers who struggle with English or lack proper customer service training. These moments leave lasting impressions and not the good kind. Luxury, after all, is not only about fine dining or expensive accommodations, but about how

people are treated from the airport to the hotel lobby to the dinner table.

Beyond service, cleanliness is an issue that cannot be ignored. Garbage on our beaches, roads, and open spaces undermines the very product we are trying to sell: natural beauty. Tourists travel here expecting pristine sands and crystal-clear water. When they encounter trash instead, they question whether their experience matches the price tag.

The Value Question Perhaps the most common complaint heard from visitors is about cost. Many point out that Turks and Caicos vacations are nearly double the price of the Dominican Republic, yet they feel they receive less value. When a family can vacation elsewhere for half the cost, with working infrastructure and reliable service, the comparison is difficult to dismiss.

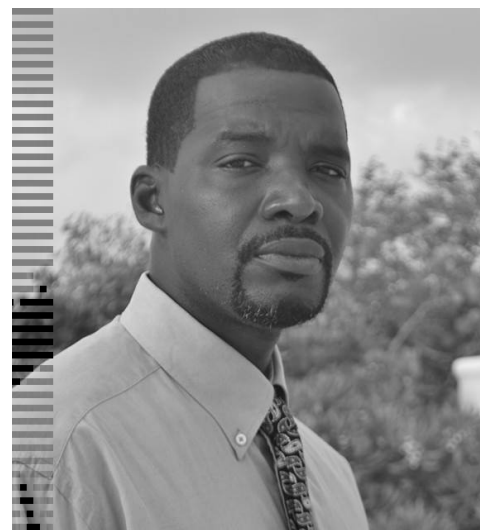
The Path Forward

If we are serious about positioning ourselves as a true high-end destination, these issues must be addressed. That means government, businesses, and the community working together to ensure our infrastructure is modern, our streets and beaches are clean, our service sector is well-

trained, and our visitors feel safe.

The Turks and Caicos Islands has the natural beauty to be among the world's best destinations. But beauty alone is not enough. A high-end destination requires consistency, control, and commitment. If we fail to rethink and act, we risk damaging the very brand that sustains our economy.

Bennett Williams is the National Swim Coach of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Contact him at: Tel: (649) 241-1272



Benneth Williams

I HASTA BE ALLOWED TO THINK FER MESELF!

OKAY! GO AHEAD AND THINK!

WELL?

HM?

WELL? WHAT DOES YA THINK?

YAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH PARENTS.... THEY IS ALWAYS TRICKING YA!

I'M STARTING TO THINK PUTTING THE TV BACK OUT HERE ISN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA

WHY'S THAT?

COME ON DOWN TO BILLY BOB'S BARBECUE AND GET YOUR HANDS ON HALF-PRICED BUFFALO WINGS TODAY ONLY!!

THAT'S WHY

NEWSLINE^{TCI} COMICS

IF IT'S TRUE THAT YOU GET BETTER WITH AGE, THEN I'M MERE MINUTES AWAY FROM MAGNIFICENCE.



IS IT YOUR BIRTHDAY, CARMEN?

HOW DID YOU KNOW?

WELL, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

THANK YOU, LARRY.

AND HOW OLD ARE WE PRETENDING TO BE THIS YEAR?

I THINK I'LL GO WITH 58 THIS YEAR!

I WENT TO A SEANCE LAST NIGHT, ANDY. IT WAS FASCINATING

DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE SPIRIT WORLD?

NO, IT MAKES ME UNCOMFORTABLE

YES, I CAN SEE HOW IT WOULD PUT YOU ON EDGE. ALL THOSE FOLKS FROM THE PAST CONTACTING YOU ABOUT UNPAID DEBTS



"HE HAS TO VISIT IN ORDER TO CHEER YOU UP BY LEAVING."

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

Z

Z

Z

Z

GARFIELD! TIME TO EAT!

BUSY, BUSY, BUSY

So that wasn't a typo on the menu?

BOODGYE. ER, BUG EYE. I MEAN, GOAT BYE. UGH!

OH, DADDY. YOU'VE NEVER BEEN GOOD AT GOODBYES.

T.S.A.

TURKS HEAD CACTUS

NEWSLINE
Heritage



A living emblem of our islands—resilient, unique, and deeply rooted in our natural heritage.

The Turks Head cactus (*Melocactus intortus*) is one of the most recognizable native species in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Topped with a bright red, woolly cap called a cephalium, this unusual cactus has long been associated with the identity of the islands. Its striking crown, said to resemble a Turkish fez, is widely believed to be the inspiration behind the name “Turks Islands”

Often found clinging to sun-baked coastal cliffs or growing among the rocky limestone terrain, the Turks Head cactus is a survivor of harsh conditions. Its thick, green body is covered in vertical ribs and stiff spines, adapted to conserve water and withstand long dry periods. From the red cephalium, small pink flowers bloom, followed by bright red fruits that attract birds and insects.

This cactus is more than just a natural curiosity — it is a national symbol. The Turks Head cactus is featured on the Turks and Caicos Islands’ flag and coat of arms, a reflection of its deep connection to the land. It represents not only the islands’ natural heritage but also the strength and uniqueness of the environment that shaped it.

Although still relatively common in some areas, the species faces growing pressure from land clearing and rapid development. Conservation groups and the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) have warned of the need to protect native habitats and preserve plant populations before they decline further. The public is urged not to disturb or remove the cactus from the wild and to support preservation efforts wherever possible.

In addition to its symbolic and ecological value, the Turks Head cactus quietly plays a role in local biodiversity. Its fruit provides food for birds, and its flowers support pollinators — small but vital interactions that help maintain the balance of the islands’ ecosystems.

Rooted in dry soil and crowned in red, the Turks Head cactus stands as a quiet emblem of Turks and Caicos — resilient, distinct, and deeply connected to the story of these islands.

References:

Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR), Turks and Caicos Islands Government
Plants of the Eastern Caribbean (Botanic Gardens Conservation International / Kew Gardens Project)

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

“Wild Plants of the Turks and Caicos Islands” by Sara and Mark Putnam

TCI National Symbols – Turks and Caicos Islands Government Information Service (GIS)
Caribbean Biodiversity Information Network (CBIN)

A Conversation with Tavares Rolle: The future is ours to shape—let’s rise to the challenge

Voices from the Streets Article 58
By Nixon Dickenson

In this week’s Voices From The Streets, I’m honoured to share an inspiring conversation with Tavares Rolle, a young

local making remarkable strides in the hospitality industry. Tavares is currently employed at Grace Bay Club and was recently named Supervisor of the Year by the Turks and Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association.

Tavares’ journey didn’t begin in a leadership role. He started as a waiter, steadily worked his way up to shift leader, and eventually earned his current position as Supervisor. His story is a testament to perseverance, humility, and hard work.

When asked about his advice for young people, Tavares emphasised three key principles:

- Hold yourself accountable for your success.
- Be willing to work hard.
- Remain teachable.

He shared that starting from the bottom taught him to appreciate success and the valuable lessons learned along the way. According to Tavares, many young people who turn to gun violence and other criminal activities often do so out of frustration and a lack of clear purpose. He encourages those feeling lost or unheard to surround themselves with positive influences—people who can offer wisdom and help open doors to opportunity.

“There are many individuals in this country with the influence and connections to make a difference,” he said. “But your attitude and character must align with your ambition.”

Tavares believes that young people must hold themselves to higher standards and take responsibility for every decision they make. The path to success is not easy—it requires patience, resilience, and faith. “There will be hard days and many ‘no’s,” he said, “but prayer, perseverance, and purpose will always triumph over adversity.”

He also highlighted the urgent need for trade schools in Turks and Caicos. “Our young people have the talent,” he said, “they just need the right facilities to help them become the business owners who will drive our country forward.” Tavares expressed concern about the impact of crime on the nation’s future. “We must not let crime destroy

our beautiful country—what our forefathers worked so hard to build.” He stressed the importance of police presence in every community to ensure citizens feel safe and supported.

As Turks and Caicos Islanders, Tavares believes we must make a greater effort to uplift one another and collaborate in building businesses that will leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

“National pride must be more than lip service—it must be a mission that becomes reality. Together, it’s possible.”

While there are many factors contributing to gun violence, Tavares believes the most powerful solution is simple: treat people kindly. As an employee in the bedrock of the country’s financial lifeline, he sees it as his duty and honor to treat everyone—locals and visitors alike—with kindness and respect.

“When I do this, I lead by example,” he said. “If I can do it, you can do it too.”

I was truly inspired by Tavares’ story, and I am hoping that it will be a spark for change. Whether you’re a young person seeking direction, a community leader with influence, or simply someone who cares about the future of Turks and Caicos—now is the time to act. Mentor someone. Speak life into someone’s dreams. Advocate for trade schools. Support local businesses. Be the example of kindness and accountability that our communities need.

Together, we can build a safer, stronger, and more united Turks and Caicos Islands. Thank you, Tavares, for being a role model and for sharing your journey, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to uplifting others. Your story is a beacon of hope and a powerful reminder that with purpose, perseverance, and positivity, anything is possible. Thank you for leading by example and inspiring a generation to dream bigger and work harder.

The future is ours to shape—let’s rise to the challenge.

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TCI COMPLAINTS COMMISSION OFFICIALS ATTEND INTERNATIONAL OMBUDSMAN CONFERENCE IN BELFAST

The Office of the Complaints Commission for the Turks & Caicos Islands proudly announces the successful participation of Senior Investigative Officer, Ms. Samadia Lightbourne, at the Ombudsman Association Conference, held June 9–11, 2025.

The annual conference, hosted in Belfast, brought together over 120 delegates from ombudsman offices across the UK, Ireland, and British Overseas Territories to exchange ideas and strengthen institutional practices in complaint resolution. Ms. Lightbourne

joined representatives from the Cayman Islands and Bermuda, contributing to meaningful discussions on the challenges faced by smaller jurisdictions and the value of international collaboration.

“Attending this conference deepened our understanding of best practices and innovative solutions for complaint handling and public sector investigations,” said Ms. Lightbourne. “We’re excited to translate these insights into tangible improvements for our services in the Turks & Caicos Islands.”

Conference highlights included sessions on:

- Early resolution strategies and stakeholder engagement
- Investigative quality assurance frameworks
- Digital transformation in ombudsman services
- Collaboration models for building public trust

As a result of the conference, the Office of the Complaints Commission will pursue:

- Strengthened ties with fellow Over-

seas Territories’ ombudsman offices

- The Office of the Complaints Commission will conduct internal training to implement the newly acquired techniques.
- Continued participation in international forums to remain on the cutting edge of public service excellence

The Office of the Complaints Commission reaffirms its commitment to ensuring accountability, transparency, and accessibility for all residents and stakeholders in the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Life Line

Our Lady of Divine Providence Roman Catholic Church

This week on NewslineTCI we are shining the spotlight on Our Lady of Divine Providence Roman Catholic Church, located along the Leeward Highway, Providenciales. The church has a great deal of worshipping opportunities throughout the week. There are weekday English Masses starting at 5:30p.m. On Friday is Holy Hour beginning at 4p.m. On Sunday at 9a.m. is English Mass. At 10:30a.m. is Creole Mass. At 12:30p.m. is Spanish Mass. For more information on worshipping opportunity, contact the church at: 1649-941-5136.



Life line Church Directory

Looking for a worshipping house to praise God and fellowship with members of the body of Christ, here is a list of some of the available sanctuaries you can attend throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Firm Foundation Ministries International Lee Street, South Caicos. Telephone: 649-348-3581 Christ is the Answer Ministry, George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030 One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com. Touch of Love Ministries International Center Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731 Abundant Life Ministries International P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755 Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk, Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289 Bethany Baptist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118 Church of God of Prophecy, Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854 Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk Tel:946-1866 Calvary Baptist Church, South Caicos. Tel:946-3212 Harvest Bible Chapel TCI, Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales. Tel: 1649 333-2009 Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com. https://www.harvesttci.tc.	Firm Foundation Ministries International 19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket , Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240 Church of God of Prophecy, Providenciales Tel:941-3438 Roman Catholic Church, Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136 Faith Tabernacle Church of God, Providenciales, Tel:946-4073 New Testament Church of God, Orea Alley, Grand Turk Tel:946-2175 New Testament Church of God, South Caicos Tel:946-3631 Methodist Church, Grand Turk Tel:946-2352 Healing Waters Ministries, Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867 House of Prayer Church of God, Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309 Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727 Mount Mariah Baptist Church, Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205 New Beginning Harvest Ministry, Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759 New Testament Church of God Orea Alley P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-1255 Airport Road, South Caicos Tel:231-2402	Firm Foundation Ministries International Waterloo Road, Grand Turk. Telephone: 649-332-624 Paradise Baptist Church, Five Cays, Providenciale Tel:941-4349 Revival Faith Center, North Backsalina, Grand Turk Tel:946-2349 Salem Baptist Church, Mission Folly, Grand Turk Tel:946-2565 Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries International, Discovery Bay Providenciales Tel: 946-5181 St. Monica’s Anglican Church P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales Tel: 946-4046 Fax:946-4046;941-8499 Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh Day Adventists, P.O. Box 803, Providenciales United Pentecostal Church, Brown’s Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel: 956-5852 Wesleyan Methodist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596 Editor’s Note: If your Ministry is not listed and/or you would like for it to be part of the NEWSLINETCI Church Diary, contact us at:contact@newslinetci.com
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Launch of WizdomCRM Virtual Stock Market Game

The Turks and Caicos Islands; leg of WizdomCRM Virtual Stock Market Game was launched this past week across the country, culminating at the Gustarvus Lightbourne Sports Complex, downtown Providenciales on Thursday, 4 September 2025, with about 200 students from high school institutions across that island. WizdomCRM is a digital literacy platform which teaches participants core financial skills. All learning approaches are integrated through Isabella, the game’s bespoke AI tool, who guides users through the visual, written, and auditory learning material. Students are given US\$100,000.00 in virtual money to buy and sell stocks from companies listed on the Barbadian, Jamaican, Trinbagonian and American stock exchanges. The event was attended by Education Minister Hon. Rachel Taylor, and Minister of Technology, Innovation and Energy Hon. E. Jay Saunders. The following are highlights from the event.







Hon. Rachel Taylor addressing the audience



Justice Carlos Simons KC, ISU Strategic Lead.

ISU LAUNCHES YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The Informal Settlements Unit (ISU), officially launched its Youth Outreach Programme on Friday, September 5, 2025, at the Salvation Army's Brighter Futures Centre Building. The programme was developed in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture.

The Honourable Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, delivered the feature address at the event, which was also attended by senior government officials including Deputy Attorney General Mrs. Khalila Astwood, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education Mr. James Astwood, the Director of Education Mr. Mark Garland, and other dignitaries. Representatives from the ISU's partner agencies, and members of the media were also present.

The launch marked the beginning of a national initiative designed to engage school-aged children from both primary and secondary levels—as well as youth outside the formal education system—on the challenges of informal settlements and the importance of sustainable community development.

The Youth Outreach Programme uses a dynamic, youth-centered approach that combines innovative teaching tools, online resources, and in-person engagement. Key elements include the Future Creators Challenge—a

national competition that will invite students to share their solutions through essays, art and jingles. These activities aim to spark critical thinking, creativity, and dialogue around the future of community development in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Speaking at the event, ISU representatives emphasized that the programme is not only about raising awareness but also about changing attitudes. By equipping young people with knowledge and encouraging them to think

about solutions, the ISU hopes to break cycles of misinformation and stigma around informal settlements, while inspiring a new generation of leaders committed to building safer, stronger communities.

A feature presentation—the Youth Outreach Programme Launch Video—was also unveiled, highlighting the programme's scope and giving voice to ISU Youth Ambassadors who will play an active role in its delivery.

The ISU has underscored that the Youth Outreach Programme is more than a series of activities. It is intended to foster a nationwide conversation led by youth, aligning with the Unit's broader mission of addressing informal settlements while promoting sustainable development.

The event concluded with a media Q and A session, where members of the press were invited to engage directly with ISU representatives and Youth Ambassadors.



Some of the ISU Youth Ambassadors being introduced at the event.

SLEEP IS A SUPER POWER: CREATE A WIND-DOWN RITUAL THAT WORKS

By Monica Uttamchandani
Holistic Health Coach - Turks and Caicos

We glorify hustle and productivity, but the truth is: your body does its deepest healing while you sleep. Sleep is where your brain processes emotion. Your liver detoxifies. Your cells repair. Your hormones rebalance. And your energy is restored. When you're not sleeping deeply or not sleeping long enough, you'll likely notice:

- Slower metabolism
- Blood sugar issues
- Poor concentration
- Cravings for sugar or caffeine
- Mood swings or low resilience
- Hormonal disruption (especially for women in perimenopause)

Sleep Starts Before You Even Get Into Bed Most people treat sleep like an off switch. But your body needs a transition, a wind-down ritual that moves you from alert to ease. This is where the magic happens. By creating a rhythm around bedtime, you gently signal to your body that it's safe to slow down and that repair can begin.

How to Build a Wind-Down Routine That Actually Works

- 1- Stop eating 2–3 hours before bed
Digestion takes energy. Late-night snacking can interfere with melatonin production and keep your body in “active mode” while you're trying to rest.
- 2- Dim the lights and reduce screen time
Bright, artificial light - especially from phones or TVs, suppresses melatonin. Use low lighting after sunset and try a screen-free hour before bed.
- 3- Sip a calming drink
Chamomile tea, magnesium powder in warm water, or a mix of tart cherry juice or ashwagandha can help



- relax your nervous system and prepare the body for sleep.
- 4- Stretch or breathe
Do a few gentle yoga poses or lie on your back and take slow, extended exhales. This downregulates the nervous system and tells your body it's safe to surrender.
- 5- Keep your sleep-wake time consistent
Going to bed and waking up at roughly the same time each day

supports your circadian rhythm- the internal clock that regulates everything from hormones to digestion to mental focus.

Sleep Is a Form of Self-Respect
You are not lazy for needing rest. You are not weak for wanting stillness. Sleep is one of the most powerful forms of nourishment available to you, and the most overlooked. You don't need to “earn” it. You just need to make space for it.

For more holistic tools, daily wellness rituals, and support in building a healthier relationship with your body, follow @balancedbymonica on Instagram.

Monica Uttamchandani is a certified Holistic Health Coach based in the Turks and Caicos Islands, supporting men and women in creating grounded, nourishing lives, one breath at a time. She also consults in person at The Elephant Rooms in Salt Mills, Providenciales.

INCREASE REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY PASSPORTS

The Department of Citizenship and Naturalization, within the Ministry of Home Affairs, wishes to remind all citizens of the Turks and Caicos Islands of the importance of checking the validity of their passports whether there are immediate plans to travel, or not and especially before purchasing airline tickets.

Therefore, when traveling your Passport MUST be valid for at least six months.

The Passport Office strongly recommends that you apply for a new passport 10 weeks (about 2 and a half months) before you are due to travel. Currently, there is a delay in processing BOTC passports due to

seasonal increase in receipt of passport applications.

The Department further advises that strict guidelines govern the issuance of BOTC emergency passports, which will be considered under the following conditions:

- Request from InterHealth Canada regarding an EMERGENCY trans-

fer of a patient to another country outside the Turks and Caicos Islands.

- Urgent business travel by Government Officials and Parliamentarians.

Additional information and forms may be found on the website www.gov.tc/passports.



Demonstrating its dedication to progress and collaboration, the Office of the Complaints Commission successfully concluded its Inter-Government Roundtable Discussion, held on Tuesday, 5th August 2025. This event marks a significant milestone in enhancing services for residents across the islands. The strategic forum brought together department representatives to collaboratively address service delivery challenges and identify solutions that will directly benefit residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

STATEMENT FROM THE COMMISSIONER

“The Inter-Government Roundtable discussion held on Tuesday, 5th August 2025, marks a remarkable turning point in how we approach public service delivery,” said Hon Rita Gardiner OBE, OTCI, Complaints Commissioner (Ombudsman). “We witnessed outstanding collabora-

tion as stakeholders from diverse government and statutory departments enthusiastically worked together to identify practical solutions to long-standing challenges. This is not just about improving processes, it’s about positively rebuilding trust and ensuring every citizen receives the high-quality service they truly deserve.”

KEY OUTCOMES ACHIEVED

The roundtable was a resounding success, with participants eagerly identifying and addressing key areas for improvement, sharing innovative suggestions to enhance the services we deliver to the general public, such as:

- Enhance communication between government and statutory departments with the OCC
- Improve public access and faster response time to complaints, further building public trust and confidence.

IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS

Each participating department will des-

Complaints Commission Champions Good Governance Through Inter-Government Roundtable

ignate a liaison representative to coordinate ongoing collaboration. “The designation of department liaisons eliminates communication barriers and ensures we maintain the momentum generated by this initiative,” added Hon. Gardiner. “Citizens can expect to see improvements in the coming months.”

COMMITMENT TO ACCOUNTABILITY

The Office of the Complaints Commission is firmly committed to fostering

ongoing inter-governmental cooperation and enthusiastically welcomes feedback from both government departments and the public as we work towards improvement.

This initiative strengthens the Complaints Commission’s mandate to promote accountability and an effective, efficient public service across the Turks and Caicos Islands, with the goal of promoting good governance here in the Turks and Caicos Islands.



Government Establish Pathways to Accountability

The Department of Behavioural Health Services (DBHS), in collaboration with the Department of Correctional Services’ Rehabilitation Department has announced the successful completion of the first-ever Pathways to Accountability Group.

The closing ceremony was celebrated on 13th August 2025, marking a significant step forward in the country’s efforts toward rehabilitation, public safety, and community safeguarding.

The programme was specifically designed to address sexual offending behaviour and to provide a structured, supportive environment for offenders to critically reflect on the impact of their actions on victims, families, and the wider community.

By fostering accountability, empathy, and behavioural change, the initiative strengthens community protection while supporting offender reintegration. Global research confirms that targeted interventions such as these significantly reduce the probability of reoffending, contributing to safer and more resilient societies.

Minister of Health and Human Services, Hon. Kyle Knowles, commended the milestone achievement, stating: “This initiative is a powerful example

of how rehabilitation and accountability can work hand in hand. When we invest in programmes that challenge harmful behaviours and replace them with healthier ways of thinking and living, we are not only reducing risk—we are safeguarding the future of our communities.”

Throughout the 8-week programme, participants explored critical topics including:

- the true meaning of consent,
- the influence of personal history and upbringing on harmful behaviour patterns,
- healthy relationships,
- assertive communication, and
- boundary setting.

Each participant concluded the programme by developing a personalized relapse prevention plan—equipping them with practical strategies to prevent reoffending and maintain positive behavioural change.

Director of DBHS, Dr. Alicia Malcolm, expressed her appreciation for the ongoing collaboration between DBHS and HMP and also thanked group facilitator, Ms. Tonya Greaves, Zone 1 Psychologist who remains committed to rehabilitation work, even with clients who are often perceived by the public as beyond

change. “This programme represents our shared responsibility to address offending behaviour at its roots. By joining efforts with global movements to prevent reoffending, we restore purpose and dignity to individuals who have lost their way, while making our communities safer for all,”

The Pathways to Accountability Group is an important first step in building a stronger rehabilitation framework in the Turks and Caicos Islands, ensuring that even the most challenging cases are met with evidence-based interventions, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to public safety.



Complaints Commission Office Imparts Knowledge HJ Robinson High's Career Day



dents, the OCC hopes to inspire them to recognise the importance of accountability within government and to consider future careers within the OCC and areas that strengthen democracy and good governance.

The Office of the Complaints Commission remains dedicated to building public awareness through outreach, particularly among young people, who are the future stewards of accountability and fairness in society.

The Office of the Complaints Commission (OCC) participated in the HJ Robinson High School Career Day on May 09, 2025, joining students, educators, and other agencies in a dynamic event designed to inspire and inform the next generation of leaders.

The OCC team engaged students in meaningful discussions about its role, emphasising its mandate to promote fairness, accountability, and transparency in public administration. Through interactive presentations, students learnt how the Commission supports individuals in resolving complaints against public bodies, protects rights, and strengthens good

governance in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

To make the learning process both engaging and memorable, the OCC distributed informative pamphlets, played educational games, and held open Q&A sessions with students and teachers. These activities not only enhanced understanding but also encouraged active participation and curiosity among students about careers in law, governance, and public service.

The Commission's participation in Career Day underscores its commitment to public education and youth empowerment. By bringing awareness of its work directly to the stu-



Losing belly fat for better health

Belly fat accumulation is often the result of a combination of factors including diet, lifestyle, genetics, and hormones. A diet high in calories, especially from sugary and processed foods, along with a lack of physical activity, are major contributors to weight gain and belly fat. Additionally, stress, lack of sleep, and genetic predisposition can influence where your body stores fat, including around your abdomen. According to Moses Chybar, wellness coach, losing belly fat is just a part of the solution, as overall, the most important mindset he said is addressing the needs of the entire body.

“Trying to lose belly fat is just looking at a part of the problem. It is far better to say to ourselves that we want to get in great shape. You can say to yourself, you want to raise your health from where it is now to a higher level. Tell yourself that you want to have great energy and a nice balance. All of you must be taken into consideration,” Chybar said.

Chybar is a wellness coach and entrepreneur known for his work with ActionCOACH Jamaica and as a Herbalife Independent Distributor. He focuses on helping individuals achieve healthy lifestyles, offering guidance on weight management, muscle health, and overall well-being. He also co-hosts ‘Health Talk Sundays’, a bi-weekly talk show, and is involved in various community initiatives.

RISK OF VARIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS

Excessive belly fat, particularly visceral fat (fat surrounding the organs), is linked to a higher risk of various health problems.



These include type 2 diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, metabolic syndrome, and certain cancers (breast, colon, and others). It can also contribute to fatty liver disease, sleep apnea, and even dementia.

“When you have a lot of fat around the mid-section that we call belly fat, it can pose serious health risks. When the fat

starts to gather in the mid-section, it is the body sending a signal that something is out of balance. Research has shown now that a lot of fat around the belly is flirting with non-communicable diseases, and even some cancers,” Chybar said.

Lack of energy and belly fat he said can be interconnected and may stem from various factors, including lifestyle choices, hormon-

al imbalances, and underlying health conditions. A combination of factors like insufficient sleep, poor diet, lack of exercise, and stress can contribute to both fatigue and belly fat accumulation.

Additionally, hormonal fluctuations, especially during menopause or due to conditions like hypothyroidism, can significantly impact energy levels and fat storage, particularly around the abdomen.

CAUSES OF WEIGHT GAIN

Weight gain primarily occurs when there is an energy imbalance, meaning you consume more calories than you burn through daily activities and exercise. This excess energy is then stored as fat, leading to weight gain. Several factors can contribute to this imbalance and cause weight gain, including diet, lack of physical activity, certain medications, and underlying health conditions.

“Eating too much processed foods, sedentary lifestyle, chronic stress and poor sleep, age related metabolic slowdown, hormonal changes and medical issues are causes of weight gain,” Chybar said.

“In the early days, people walked more; now we drive a lot more these days. People would consume quite a bit of carbs, but they were physically active. Today we are not active, and we sit around our desks working and there is limited natural activities to burn the calories as was done in the past,” he added.

In some cases, he said, the quality of the foods that we are eating is poor. It is best he said to identify the areas of your lifestyle that will potentially affect you, and make gradually changes.



One of the most common and least discussed symptoms of menopause is vaginal dryness. Many women feel embarrassed to talk about it, but you are far from alone. Up to 50 to 60 per cent of women in mid-life years experience dryness, itching, irritation, or pain during intimacy.

If left unspoken, it can impact not only physical comfort but also self-confidence, relationships, and overall quality of life.

Vaginal dryness and discomfort are often caused by a drop in oestrogen levels, frequently occurring after menopause, during breastfeeding, or due to certain medications

or treatments like chemotherapy. Symptoms may also include a burning sensation, itching, soreness, pain during sex, and an increased risk of urinary tract infections (UTIs).

More than one in three females age between 57 and 69 years report vaginal dryness. However, most don't talk to their doctor about it.

Why Does It Happen?

- Oestrogen decline: As oestrogen levels drop during menopause, vaginal tissues become thinner, less elastic, and less able to stay lubricated.

Vaginal dryness and discomfort; real talk and relief

- Reduced blood flow: Lower hormone levels also mean less blood circulation to the vaginal area, which affects natural moisture.
 - pH shifts: Vaginal acidity changes, sometimes leading to irritation or increased infections.
 - Lifestyle factors: Stress, smoking, dehydration, and certain medications (like antihistamines or antidepressants) can make dryness worse.
- Why It Matters?**
- Vaginal dryness isn't 'just uncomfortable.' It can cause:
- Burning, itching, or irritation
 - Pain during intimacy (dyspareunia)
 - Urinary discomfort or infections
 - Emotional stress that affects confidence and relationships
- What Women Can Do About It:**
- Stay hydrated and nourish your body: Drink water, eat omega-3 rich foods, and keep caffeine and alcohol in check.
 - Use lubricants and moisturisers: Over-the-counter options provide immediate comfort.
 - Try vaginal oestrogen therapy: Creams, tablets, or rings can restore elasticity and moisture (ask your doctor what's right for you).
 - Explore non-hormonal options: Hyaluron-

- ic acid gels, laser therapy, or DHEA-based treatments may be recommended.
- Open up the conversation: Talking with your healthcare provider (and your partner) is the first step to finding lasting relief. The following lifestyle changes can help combat vaginal dryness and discomfort.
 - Avoid fragrances: The vagina contains a delicate balance of good bacteria and is self-cleaning. There is no need for douching or using fragrant soaps around the sensitive vaginal area; these may cause irritation or dryness.
 - Regular sex: Regular sexual activity, whether alone or with a partner, can manage vaginal dryness. Blood flow to the vaginal tissues increases during arousal, and this helps stimulate moisture production.
 - Stay hydrated: Dehydration can lead to vaginal dryness. Drinking six to eight glasses of water daily, and potentially more in hot weather or when exercising, may help prevent vaginal dryness.
 - Phytoestrogen supplements: Phytoestrogens are compounds that act similarly to oestrogen in the body. They occur in plant-based foods, including soy, nuts, seeds, and tofu.
- SOURCE: Power In The Pause with Nicky Clarke**

Italian fashion icon Giorgio Armani dead at 91

Italian luxury king Giorgio Armani, designer to the stars and leader of a high-end lifestyle empire, has died at the age of 91.

"The world lost a giant today. He made history and will be remembered forever," fellow Italian icon Donatella Versace said on Instagram.

The best-known contemporary designer, Armani opened his fashion house in Milan in 1975, quickly rising to the top of the industry and going on to dress Hollywood.

His funeral on Monday will be private, but well-wishers will be able to pay their respects at a memorial chamber open on Saturday and Sunday in Milan, his company said in a statement.

The group did not give a cause of death, but Armani missed some shows earlier this year due to unspecified health issues.

"Il Signor Armani, as he was always respectfully and admiringly called by employees and collaborators, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loved ones," the statement said.

"Indefatigable to the end, he worked until his final days," it added, citing "many

ongoing and future projects".

Hollywood stars paid gushing tribute: Julia Roberts said he was "A true friend. A legend"; Anne Hathaway called him "one of the emperors of Italian fashion"; and Claudia Cardinale lamented: "My heart is broken."

US actor Russell Crowe posted an anecdote on X about buying his first Armani suit for the Cannes film festival in 1997 after his bag was lost in transit.

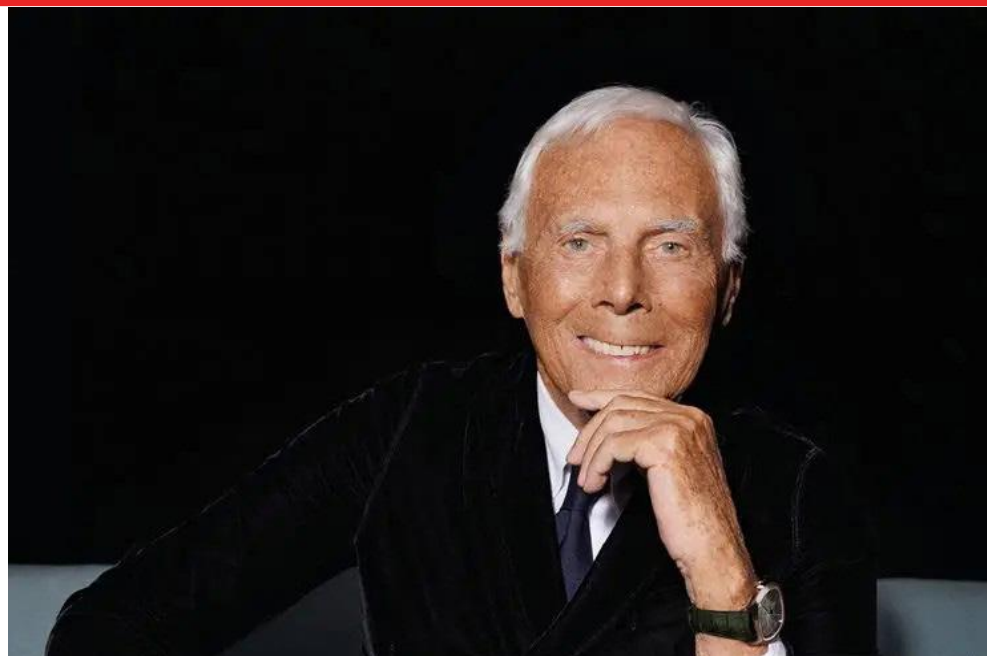
"That began a love affair with Armani suits that continues to this day," he said. The fashion world also mourned one of its most famous faces.

The head of French luxury group LVMH, Bernard Arnault, said Armani "gave Italian elegance a global reach and scale".

"He created a unique style, made of shadow and light, which he transformed into an entrepreneurial adventure crowned with success," he said.

The Italian icon was credited with inventing red-carpet fashion, but also moved into a less expensive range aimed at a younger market through Emporio Armani, and opened luxury hotels.

Though a tireless driving force of his company des, Armani was forced to



Giorgio Armani

cancel his menswear show in Milan earlier this year due to health reasons.

He also missed the Paris Armani Prive show on doctors' orders.

"In 20 years of Armani Prive, it's the first time I'm not in Paris," he said in a statement sent to AFP in July.

His death came just weeks before celebrations for 50 years of his eponymous label culminate at Milan Fashion Week, and raises the question of succession.

In an interview published last week, Armani told the Financial Times he was planning on "a gradual transition of the responsibilities that I have always handled to those closest to me".

That includes "the members of my family and the entire working team", and specifically Leo Dell'Orco, head of men's

design for the Armani group, he said.

Armani famously maintained an iron grip over his creative production.

At the Armani/Silos exhibition space in Milan, stunned visitors said the city "has lost a piece of its history".

Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said Armani "inspired the whole world" and was a "symbol of Italy at its best".

He was also mourned by animal rights activists, with PETA noting his "bold decision" to ban fur that caused other brands to follow suit.

The official Giorgio Armani Instagram page posted a quote by the designer which read: "The mark I hope to leave is one of commitment, respect, and genuine care for people and for reality."

"That's where everything truly begins."

Mariah Carey surges with Sugar Sweet

Sugar Sweet, the second single from Mariah Carey's forthcoming 16th studio album Here for it All (release date September 26), continues to make its way up multiple Billboard charts.

The song, which features Shenseea and Kehlani, is not doing as well as previous singles from Carey's catalogue. As a matter of fact, it is yet to crack the all-genre Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Sugar Sweet improves from #31 to #29 on Billboard's R&B/Hip Hop Airplay chart in its 4th week, while on Mainstream R&B/Hip Hop Airplay, the song remains at #22 for a second week.

The song debuts at #37 on Rhythmic Top 40 Airplay, while it peaked at #8 on Hot R&B Songs a week ago.

Outside of the US, Sugar Sweet rose to #17 in New Zealand while it stalled at #41 on the UK Singles chart.

Incidentally, it was 35 years ago this very week that Mariah's debut single Vision of Love, completed a 4-week run at #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. The song, which was eventually certified platinum in the United States, began a string of hits for Carey throughout the 1990s.

Just in case you didn't know, Mariah Carey sang background vocals on Brenda K Starr's 1988 hit ballad

I Still Believe. Starr, who was signed to Columbia Records at the time, introduced Mariah to the label's boss Tommy Mottola, who later signed her, and became her husband.

And still on the Rhythmic Top 40 Airplay chart, Sean Paul's Ginger spices things up in the #20 position, while global chart-topper Shake it to the Max (Fly) remix, slides down from #17 to #12. It spent two weeks at #1 on that chart.

Shake it to the Max (Fly) remix, which was certified gold in New Zealand last week for sales and streaming equivalent of 15,000 units, remains at #27 on Billboard's Pop Songs chart. It continues to lead the US Afrobeats Songs chart for an uninterrupted 15th week, while inching down from #28 to #29 on Mainstream R&B/Hip Hop Airplay.

Over on R&B/Hip Hop Digital Song Sales, the song steps up from #12 to #8, having peaked at #3, and on R&B/Hip-Hop Airplay, it makes gains moving up from #23 to #21. On the Billboard Hot 100, the song dips from #65 to #72, where it peaked at #44.

Moving now to the Billboard Reggae Albums chart, Legend by Bob Marley & the Wailers spreads its dominance to 294 non-consecutive weeks in the #1 spot.

Best of Shaggy: The Boombastic Collection by Shaggy is firm at #2, while Sean Paul's Dutty Classics Collection re-enters at #3.

World on Fire by Stick Figure is #4, Greatest Hits by UB40 is steady at #5, Dutty Rock by Sean Paul is #6, while Wisdom and Set in Stone by Stick Figure are #7 and #8.

Collection: 50th State of Mind by Fiji The Artist is at #9 and Welcome to Jamrock by Damian Marley remains at #10.

More Reggae/Funk it Up by Ammoye and Samora remains at #1 on the Rebel Vibe Top 10 Canadian Reggae chart. Pressure by Gisto is #2, while Ready or Not by Journey Star is #3. Meds by Chizzy Bashment featuring Kris Gee holds the #4 spot and Glen Washington takes the #5 spot.

Left with a Broken Heart by Sampaloe spends a second week at the top of the Foundation Radio Network (New York) Reggae chart.

A Woman's Touch by Richie Stephens darts from #11 to #8, Jamaica Love (Fly Again) by Mojo Morgan makes moves from #13 to #10, while In Our Sight by Skip Marley debuts at #27.

Other new entries are I'll Make it With Your Love by The Bonner Brothers (28) and Rasta Girl by Jango Thriller at #30.

Veteran singer Rod Spence takes over the #1 spot on the South Florida Reggae chart with Smile, while Cool Me Down by Courtney John steps up from #12 to #9, and Ride Cowboy Ride by Wesrock glides from #14 to #10.

Come Jesus Come by Sherell Rose Green (22), I Don't Wanna Know by Winchester T (23), and How Dem Fi Fight Reggae Music by Sizzla and Bounty Killer (24) are new entries.



Mariah Carey



Julia Roberts

Julia Roberts said she hoped to “stir it all up” for viewers of her new film about a university professor grappling with fraught US campus poli-

tics as the Hollywood star made her debut at the Venice Film Festival on Friday. The star walked the red carpet at

Julia Roberts looks to ‘stir it up’ with cancel culture film at Venice

the city’s festival for the first time in her career at the premiere of *After the Hunt*, a cancel-culture and Me-Too-themed psychological drama from Italian director Luca Guadagnino. Early reviews could make difficult reading for the *Pretty Woman* actress, however. The *Hollywood Reporter* wondering how Guadagnino “could deliver something so dour and airless”. While *Variety* praised Roberts’s performance, it nevertheless described the film as “muddled”. Roberts, speaking at a news conference Friday ahead of the premiere, said the film did not aim to answer questions, but provoke them. She plays a Yale University professor haunted by a secret from her past after a student accuses one of her colleagues of sexual assault. Questions over truth and fiction, and

whether characters are reliable narrators, course through the film. Touching on Gen Z culture and the generational divide between students and professors, the Amazon-produced film has overtones of Todd Field’s 2022 drama *Tar*, which earned Cate Blanchett a best actress award at Venice. “Not everything is supposed to make you comfortable,” Roberts’s character in the film tells the student who claims she was assaulted. Roberts said the film did not advocate any one point of view. “We are challenging people to have conversations and to be excited by that or to be infuriated by that, it’s up to you,” she said. “We are kind of losing the art of conversation in humanity right now, and if making this movie does anything, getting everybody to talk to each other is the most exciting thing I feel we could accomplish.”

The Harder They Come story returns to UK stage

Some fans of *The Harder They Come* often wonder what would have happened if Ivan survived his gunfight with police and ended up in Cuba. There are a lot of similar ponderings around the classic 1972 movie, starring Jimmy Cliff and directed by Perry Henzell. A re-imaged stage musical of *The Harder They Come* opens September 13 at the Stratford East Theatre in London, England. Written by Pulitzer Prize winner Suzan-Lori Parks and directed by Matthew Xia, it is scheduled to close on October 25. Justine Henzell, daughter of Perry Henzell, told the *Jamaica Observer* that the musical presents a contemporary view of *The Harder They Come*. “The original stage musical of *The Harder They Come* was staged 20 years ago and was written by Perry Henzell. This version has been written by Suzan-Lori Parks, who approaches the story with fresh eyes and grounds it in the social realities of 2025,” she said. “Many things have changed in Jamaica and the world since the film was released over 50 years ago, but many things have not. The struggle for the underrepresented



Harder they come poster

to be heard is still valid.” Born in Kentucky, Parks won the Pulitzer in 2002 for Best Drama with her play *Topdog/Underdog*. She was named by *Time* magazine as one of its 100 Most Influential People in The World for 2023. Her take on *The Harder They Come* debuted at The Public Theater in Manhattan, New York, USA, in 2023. A leading figure in British theatre, Xia was born in London to a Jamaican father and British mother. Natey Jones, another Briton whose credits include *Get Up, Stand Up! The Bob Marley Musical*, plays the lead role of Ivan. *The Harder They Come* was co-written by Perry Henzell, a former advertising executive, and Trevor Rhone, who emerged as a force in Jamaican theatre during the early 1970s. The movie, driven by a powerful soundtrack with songs by Jimmy Cliff, Toots And The Maytals, The Melodians, and Desmond Dekker, helped introduce reggae to a global audience. Perry Henzell died in November 2006 at age 70, while Rhone passed away three years later at age 69.

CDB Marks Major Milestone with Financial Close on Dominica Geothermal Energy Project

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB / the Bank) has reached financial close on a facility for the landmark Dominica Geothermal Energy 10MW Project.

The facility is made available to the Geothermal Power Company of Dominica (GPC) that was established specifically to implement the project. GPC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ormat Technologies Inc, a leading international geothermal developer.

This transaction is the first geothermal project in the region to reach this stage with a private sector partner.

Mr. Isaac Solomon, CDB Vice President of Operations, underscored the significance of the project by explaining, “This is a pivotal transaction for the Bank, for the Commonwealth of Dominica, and for the region. It showcases the potential of blended concessional finance to mobilise private sector expertise and deliver transformative clean energy solutions in small island developing states.”

The power plant development phase is being implemented as a private sector-led initiative, with CDB acting as the lead financial arranger. The project has secured USD 34.8 million in concessional funding.

Of this amount, USD 25.4 million is provided by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in the form of a concessional loan, which was mobilized through the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)-GCF program titled “FP020: Sustainable Energy Facility for the Eastern Caribbean.” An additional USD 9.4 million is being provided from Canada’s Supporting Resilient Green Energy Initiative in the Caribbean (SuRGE) programme.

The CARICOM Development Fund (CDF) is also contributing USD 15 million in loan financing out of its own capital fund resources, as the major element of the CDF’s Country Assistance Programme for Dominica.



Aerial view of Dominica Geothermal Plant

Mr. Rodinald Soomer, CDF Chief Executive Officer highlighted the strategic regional importance of the project by noting, ‘It leverages Dominica’s natural resource endowments to create a sustainable productive asset that helps the country address the inherent disadvantages it faces as one of the Least Developed Countries in CARICOM, in producing goods and services for regional and global markets at internationally competitive prices.’

Mr. Anton Edmunds, IDB General Manager for the Caribbean, congratulated CDB, CDF, and GCF for this landmark achievement in regional energy development by stating, “This milestone represents a ‘before and after’ moment in Dominica’s energy transformation and underscores the steadfast commitment of our institutions to advancing sustainable development.

“As the implementing entity of the GCF, we at the IDB are proud to have played a key role in securing the financing for the first geothermal power plant to operate under a public-private partnership in the En-

glish-speaking Caribbean.

“When the plant starts to operate, the very next day, up to 70% the energy matrix of the country will be powered by geothermal energy, liberating important resources that were used to import fossil fuels for power generation.”

Ms. Kristin Lang, Director of the Green Climate Fund’s Department of the Latin America and the Caribbean Region, commended the project by saying, “We are pleased to see the growing momentum of this landmark geothermal energy project, which is turning ambitions and partnerships into clean energy solutions for small island developing states in the Caribbean. By deploying catalytic capital to unlock clean energy access, this initiative demonstrates how innovative financing, including the private sector, can transform the energy sector in the region.”

H.E. Brenda Wills, High Commissioner of Canada to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean emphasised support for the initiative by adding, “Canada is pleased to partner

with the Caribbean Development Bank in enhancing access to clean energy in Dominica and supporting the country’s ambition of becoming more climate resilient and energy secure.

“This project is an important part of Canada’s Supporting Resilient Green Energy Initiative in the Caribbean (SuRGE) programme, which aims to accelerate the region’s transition towards sustainable energy.”

The Dominica geothermal plant is seen as a transformative initiative, setting the stage for the full development of the country’s extensive geothermal resource, estimated at up to 1000 MW. Construction of the facility in the Roseau Valley is underway and, once operational, it will deliver firm renewable energy to the national grid, replace diesel-based generation, and lower electricity production costs.

The Honourable Vince Henderson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business, Trade and Energy for Dominica, champions the development of the country’s geothermal resources. He stated that, “The development of this truly green, resilient and renewable energy infrastructure in Dominica is a massive step forward for the island and the wider region. We are pleased to see our regional financing partners take a lead role in providing concessional financing for this initial 10 MW geothermal power plant.”

The project is expected to enhance energy security, stabilise tariffs, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and drive long-term economic growth. It also supports Dominica’s climate resilience and development goals while creating opportunities to engage in the global market for green energy products such as green electricity, green hydrogen, and green ammonia. The initiative reflects CDB’s commitment to advancing a clean, resilient, and inclusive energy future for the region.

Reimagining Caribbean Creativity: CDB Charts Bold Path for Orange Economy Growth

The President of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB, the Bank), Mr. Daniel Best, has doubled down on the institution’s vision for transforming the region’s creative economy through innovation, sustainable financing, and strategic investment.

Speaking on the evolution of the Bank’s flagship Cultural and Creative Industries Innovation Fund (CIIF), President Best highlighted the urgency of supporting Caribbean talent in building globally competitive, self-sustaining creative enterprises.

“CIIF is a game-changer for the region—supporting not just talent, but the systems and resources creatives need to thrive. We are moving beyond handouts and designing tools that make it possible for creatives to own their future. This is about sustainable growth, not just for the industry, but for the region’s identity,” shared President Best.

Speaking at a CARIFESTA XV Symposium entitled “Beyond the Grant: Financing Futures in the Creative Economy,” President Best highlighted several challenges faced by many Caribbean creatives and opportunities being explored by CDB.

To date, CIIF has directly benefited over 1,000 creatives across 17 countries, catalysed 144 new jobs, and funded 30 successful projects. The Fund has also supported a special initiative in Haiti, investing USD

200,000 to empower 90 creatives through technical assistance and capacity-building. While CIIF offers training and grant support, President Best, emphasised the strategic importance of transitioning from grant dependency to sustainable financing models. In this regard, CDB’s Board approved the Bank’s first-ever Trade Finance Guarantee Programme, aimed at de-risking investments into Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) involved in trade, including those in the creative sector. This initiative will be followed by the launch of an MSME Partial Guarantee Scheme in 2026, further easing access to capital for creative entrepreneurs.

CIIF’s re-capitalisation through 2027 marks a new phase focused on blended finance, receivables financing, and investment readiness. The Bank is also working to bridge the gap between creatives and financiers by training commercial loan officers to appraise intellectual property and creative assets, and educating creatives on proposal writing and financial literacy.

President Best stated, “We’re pulling out all the stops—blended finance, guarantees, receivables financing. It’s time for creatives to receive the kind of sustainable investment they need to flourish. We’re making it make sense.”

The Bank’s vision also includes linking climate resilience with cultural financing, recognising the economic vulnerability of major cultural events like Crop Over, Trinidad and Tobago Carnival, and Junkanoo to climate disruptions.

“The biggest revenue earners in our economies are tourism and culture. One weather event could devastate these sectors. The two, therefore, cannot be considered mutu-

ally exclusive,” Best noted.

CDB, through CIIF, continues to support capacity-building, mentorship, and policy development, while promoting cultural equity and representation. Through strategic partnerships and data-driven approaches, the Bank is helping creatives move from extraction of ideas to ownership, ensuring that Caribbean talent is not only celebrated but sustainably supported.



let to right - Marielle Barrow-Maignan, Daniel Best, Patrice Beersingh, Jawara Alleyne, Eliana Prada and Andre Le Roux on stage following the CARIFESTA XV Big Conversation at the Barbados Hilton on August 28, 2025.



A chemist tests soil in a lab

Barbados is the recipient of state-of-the-art soil testing equipment under an initiative which is expected to have far-reaching impacts on the environment, reducing land degradation, strengthening livelihoods, and promot-

ing the sustainable development of communities. The equipment, which significantly enhances the capacity of the Government Analytical Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security to

INCREASED SOIL TESTING CAPACITY FOR BARBADOS WITH NEW EQUIPMENT

conduct soil testing locally, was handed over by the Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM), through its Caribbean Small Island Developing States Multicounty Soil Management Initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and Climate-Resilient Food Systems (CSIDS SOILCARE) Phase 1 Project- funded by the Global Environmental Facility and implemented with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization. PISLM’s Executive Director, Dr. Ronen Francis, handed over the equipment to Dr. Beverly Wood- Director of the Government Analytical Services, on Thursday, 21st August 2025. Dr. Francis affirmed, that the initiative underscored the importance of protecting and restoring our lands, as not only an environmental imperative, but rather a moral and economic obligation, that secures a resilient and sustainable future for generations to come. “We value the laboratory equipment as far more than the transfer of machinery and tools, but rather an investment in the people of Barbados, that brings them one step closer to combating soil productivity loss, enhancing agricultural production and food security and improving the lives of those who depend on the land.” “The equipment improves and adds to

the suite of equipment that we already have at the laboratory,” commented Dr. Beverly Wood- Director of Government Analytical Services. She also suggested that Barbados’ representation and participation in the PISLM- SOILCARE Laboratory Technicians training as a part of the Caribbean Soil Laboratory Network (CARSOLAN), in collaboration with the UWI, and the Global Soil Partnership, positions Barbados to deliver on national objectives while utilizing the equipment received. Mr. David Leacock- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and National Beautification, Green and Blue Economy, explained that the equipment will help the country go a long way with analysing its soils. The equipment worth Thirty Thousand United States Dollars (\$30,000USD) will allow Barbados to tailor its soil management practices to the specific soil characteristics and use, develop precision Crop management strategies, develop monitoring mechanisms for land cover and land productivity and monitor carbon sequestration. The handover of equipment reaffirms our Inter-Governmental Organization’s solidarity with Caribbean Small Island States in the ongoing effort to protect our soils, restore our lands, and secure a resilient future for generations to come.

St Kitts and Nevis welcomes visa-free travel to Nigeria

The St Kitts and Nevis government Monday announced that the twin-island federation had reached an agreement with Nigeria allowing citizens to visit the African country visa-free. A government statement described the agreement as “a historic milestone in bilateral relations between the two nations.” It said that the accord was reached following high-level talks between Prime Minister Dr Terrance M Drew and Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, earlier this year in Abuja, and during regional meetings with the leaders of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). “This is a symbolic and practical step in reconnecting our peoples. St Kitts and Nevis has long extended visa-free ac-

cess to Nigerian nationals, and we are heartened that Nigeria has reciprocated in the same spirit of unity and mutual respect,” Drew said. He said that the agreement reflects the shared vision of both governments to remove barriers and foster closer ties across the Atlantic. He expressed gratitude to President Tinubu for his leadership in advancing this initiative and reaffirmed the federation’s commitment to strengthening Africa–Caribbean relations under its Sustainable Island State Agenda. The government stated that visa-free access is expected to foster greater collaboration in trade, investment, education, and tourism, thereby further strengthening the historic bond between Africa and the Caribbean.



St Kitts Prime Minister Dr Terrance Drew and Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.



Migrant farmworkers pick a vegetable crop on an early morning in Fresno, California, on July 18, 2025.

More than 1.2 million immigrants disappeared from the labour force from January through the end of July, according to preliminary Census Bureau data analysed by the Pew Research Center. That includes people who are in the country illegally as well as legal residents. Immigrants make up almost 20% of the US workforce and that data shows 45% of workers in farming, fishing and forestry are immigrants, according to Pew senior researcher Stephanie Kramer.

About 30% of all construction workers are immigrants and 24% of service workers are immigrants, she added. The loss in immigrant workers comes as the nation is seeing the first decline in the overall immigrant population after the number of people in the US illegally reached an all-time high of 14 million in 2023. Headlines Delivered to Your Inbox Sign up for The Gleaner’s morning and evening newsletters. “It’s unclear how much of the decline we’ve

U.S. Expels 1.2 million immigrants, preliminary data shows

seen since January is due to voluntary departures to pursue other opportunities or avoid deportation, removals, underreporting or other technical issues,” Kramer said. “However, we don’t believe that the preliminary numbers indicating net-negative migration are so far off that the decline isn’t real.” Trump campaigned on a promise to deport millions of immigrants working in the US illegally. He has said he is focusing deportation efforts on “dangerous criminals,” but most people detained by ICE have no criminal convictions. At the same time, the number of illegal border crossings has plunged under his policies. Pia Orrenius, a labour economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, said immigrants normally contribute at least 50% of job growth in the US. “The influx across the border from what we can tell is essentially stopped, and that’s where we were getting millions and millions of migrants over the last four years,” she said. “That has had a huge impact on the ability to create jobs.” Just across the border from Mexico in McAllen, Texas, corn and cotton fields are about ready for harvesting. Elizabeth Rodriguez worries there won’t be enough workers available for the gins and other machinery

once the fields are cleared. Immigration enforcement actions at farms, businesses and construction sites brought everything to a standstill, said Rodriguez, director of farmworker advocacy for the National Farmworker Ministry. “In May, during the peak of our watermelon and cantaloupe season, it delayed it. A lot of crops did go to waste,” she said. In Ventura County, California, northwest of Los Angeles, Lisa Tate manages her family business that grows citrus fruits, avocados and coffee on eight ranches and 800 acres (323 hectares). Most of the men and women who work their farms are contractor-provided day labourers. There were days earlier this year when crews would be smaller. Tate is hesitant to place that blame on immigration policies. But the fear of ICE raids spread quickly. Dozens of area farmworkers were arrested late this spring. “People were being taken out of laundromats, off the side of the road,” Tate said. Lidia, the farmworker who spoke to the AP through an interpreter, said her biggest fear is being sent back to Mexico. Now 36, she is married with three school-age children who were born here. “I don’t know if I’ll be able to bring my kids,” said Lidia. “I’m also very concerned I’d have to start from zero. My whole life has been in the United States.”

Newsom Sues Fox for \$787M Over Trump Lie

The culture war just got a \$787 million price tag. California Governor Gavin Newsom has filed a headline-grabbing defamation lawsuit against Fox News, accusing the network of knowingly airing false claims that damaged his reputation, credibility, and future political viability. At the heart of the legal battle? A prime-time accusation that Newsom lied about a phone call with President Trump during the peak of a tense federal immigration crackdown — an accusation the governor alleges Fox knew was false but aired anyway. Filed on June 27 in Delaware Superior Court, the suit isn’t just about correcting a timeline. It’s a direct strike at Fox News’ editorial judgment, branding the network as a partisan operation willing to smear public officials to protect Trump from his own misstatements. What the Lawsuit Alleges According to Newsom’s legal team, the facts are not in dispute. He and Trump spoke briefly — around 16 minutes — late on June 6 or early June 7, during mounting protests in Los Angeles over federal immigration raids. Days later, Trump claimed during a televised Oval Office appearance that he had spoken to Newsom “a day ago,” as reported by POLITICO, implying a call took place on June 9 or 10. No such call occurred, according to Newsom, who publicly denied the claim in real-time via social media. Despite this, Fox News anchor Jesse Watters aired an edited video of Trump’s remarks and asked viewers, “Why would Newsom lie and claim Trump never called him,” according to the CNBC. Meanwhile, a banner across the screen reportedly read “Gavin

Lied About Trump’s Call.” Newsom alleges this was no innocent mistake — but a calculated effort to boost Trump’s credibility at his expense. The suit claims the network acted with “actual malice,” a high legal threshold requiring proof that the network either knew its claims were false or aired them with reckless disregard for the truth, according to Reuters. The Price of a Primetime Smear? The governor’s eye-popping \$787 million demand mirrors the amount Fox News reportedly paid to settle its 2023 lawsuit with Dominion Voting Systems, which accused the network of spreading false election fraud claims. That case never made it to trial, but it peeled back layers of internal communications showing network hosts casting doubt on the very narratives they aired. Newsom, who is suing in his personal capacity, says he’ll drop the case if Fox and Watters publicly retract the claim and issue an on-air apology — an offer Fox has rejected. Instead, the network dismissed the lawsuit as “frivolous” and politically motivated, calling it a “transparent publicity stunt ... designed to chill free speech critical of (Newsom),” according to CNBC. For Newsom, this isn’t just personal — it’s political. The lawsuit arrives as California remains in open conflict with Trump’s White House over immigration enforcement and National Guard deployments. Trump recently ordered 2,000 California National Guard troops and 700 Marines to respond to unrest in Los Angeles, bypassing the governor’s authority in the process. According to Newsom’s complaint, not only was Trump’s statement about their call inaccurate, but Fox manipulated the story

“to provoke outrage” and “cause Governor Newsom significant harm” to his reputation, political prospects, and fundraising ability, according to Reuters. Legal experts say the case faces steep odds.

Public officials rarely win defamation suits because they must prove “actual malice” — a standard set in the landmark 1964 Supreme Court ruling New York Times v. Sullivan.



Gavin Newsom



TCIFA LAUNCHES BIGGER GAME ACADEMY

Liverpool sign Newcastle striker Isak in British record deal

Liverpool finally landed Newcastle striker Alexander Isak on Monday in a British-record £125-million deal, after a protracted chase for the Sweden star that dominated the English Premier League transfer window.

Isak has reportedly signed a six-year contract with the Premier League champions after they finally convinced Newcastle to accept an improved bid.

"I feel amazing," he told Liverpool's website. "It's been a long journey to get here but I'm super-happy to be a part of this team, this club, and everything it stands for."

"It's something I'm proud of and I'm really looking forward to it."

"I'm just happy it's done and that I can get back to work. I'm looking forward to seeing my teammates and the fans, and getting back out there."

Arne Slot's Liverpool had a £110-million offer rejected by Newcastle in August, but Isak's determination to force through the move paid off after the transfer saga grew increasingly tetchy. Isak told Newcastle he wanted to leave, and spent part of the preseason training alone at his former club Real Sociedad rather than linking up with Eddie Howe's team.

He was left out of Newcastle's preseason tour of Asia with what was said to be a thigh injury, and accused the Magpies hierarchy of breaking a commitment that he could leave if a suitable offer came in from a top club.

Howe had repeatedly stated his desire to keep Isak, who scored 27 times in



Alexander Isak

42 appearances in all competitions last season.

Isak's goals helped secure UEFA Champions League qualification and ended Newcastle's 56-year trophy drought with a League Cup final win over Liverpool.

But Newcastle's swoop for Stuttgart striker Nick Woltemade on Saturday paved the way for the Swedish forward to secure his dream move.

The 25-year-old travelled to Merseyside for a medical on Monday before completing his switch ahead of the Premier

League's 1800 GMT transfer deadline. Isak's move to Anfield takes Liverpool's spending on new signings to an estimated £416 million since the end of last season.

Florian Wirtz, Hugo Ekitike, Milos Kerkez, Jeremie Frimpong, Giorgi Mamardashvili, Armin Pecs and Giovanni Leoni are Liverpool's other major new recruits.

The Reds' spending has shattered the previous summer window record outlay by a Premier League club of £400 million, set by Chelsea in 2023.

The Reds had already broken their own transfer record to land Leverkusen playmaker Wirtz for an initial £100 million before Isak's move set a new mark for a fee paid by a British club.

Chelsea held the previous record with their £107-million signing of Enzo Fernandez in 2023.

Slot is looking to cement Liverpool's hold on the Premier League title while also challenging for a seventh Champions League crown.

If Liverpool can win the Premier League again this season it would make them the most successful team in English top flight history, with 21 titles.

The Reds have not lifted the title in successive seasons since winning three in a row from 1982 to 1984.

With Isak now the fulcrum of Liverpool's formidable attack, Slot will be under pressure to deliver the record-breaking title.

The Dutchman has a wealth of forward options, with new signings Isak, Wirtz and Hugo Ekitike joining Mohamed Salah, Cody Gakpo and Federico Chiesa.

The spending spree marks a dramatic shift in policy for Liverpool, with Chiesa the only senior arrival at Liverpool during the 2024 summer transfer window, for an initial fee of £10 million.

Luis Diaz, Darwin Nunez, Jarell Quansah, Caoimhin Kelleher, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Tyler Morton and Ben Doak have all been sold by Liverpool over the summer, with the club recouping around £190 million.



Gold medalist Imane Khelif of Team Algeria celebrates during the Boxing Women's 66kg medal ceremony at the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

Olympic champion boxer Imane Khelif is challenging the global boxing federation's decision to mandate gender testing to determine the eligibility of male and female boxers.

In May, World Boxing said Khelif, an Algerian boxer, would be banned from all

World Boxing competitions until she underwent the mandatory test. The decision to mandate testing came in part due to the controversy surrounding Khelif after she won a gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

On Monday, the Court of Arbitration for

Olympic gold medalist Imane Khelif challenges gender test mandate

Sport said in a statement that Khelif was challenging World Boxing's decision. It said the appeal, filed on Aug. 5, also requested that CAS declare Khelif eligible to participate in the 2025 World Boxing Championships from Sept. 4-14 without a test.

CAS said it had dismissed on Monday a request to suspend the execution of the World Boxing testing until the case is heard.

Khelif was one of two boxers who sparked a gender eligibility furor at the Paris Games. The other was Taiwanese fighter Lin Yu-ting, who has entered to compete at the world championships that start this week in Liverpool.

Both fighters won Olympic gold medals, but Khelif's opening bout, when she left her Italian opponent in tears, sparked criticism from a range of commentators, in-

cluding now-U.S. Vice President JD Vance and "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling.

Khelif boxed for years on the international stage without any gender issues or questions until the year before the Olympics, when she was disqualified from the International Boxing Association's world championships.

Last month, she denied claims made by her former manager that she was putting her career on hold.

"I would like to make it clear to the public that the reports of my retirement from boxing are false," the 26-year-old wrote on Facebook.

She accused her former manager, Nasser Yesfah, of "betraying (her) trust and (her) country with his false and malicious statements."

"This person no longer represents me in any way," she said.

T&T clinch 50-over title with last-round win over Barbados

TRINIDAD AND Tobago (T&T) captured the CWI Rising Stars Under-17 Men’s 50-over Championship title by defeating table leaders Barbados in the fifth and final round on Monday. T&T emerged victorious over Barbados by 23 runs to hand them their first loss of the tournament and prevent them from doing the double after they lifted the two-day title last month.

Meanwhile, the Leeward Islands, who entered the final round in second position, had their hopes of winning the competition dashed after their contest against the Windward Islands was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Elsewhere, Jamaica defeated Guyana in their bottom-of-the-table clash. At Gilbert Park, T&T upset pre-tournament favourites Barbados in the final round to jump from third position and lift the trophy.

Entering the fifth and decisive round on 13.8 points behind the Leeward Islands (14 points) and Barbados (16.2 points), T&T needed a victory to have any shot of finishing in first place. They found themselves in early trouble at 38 for three after being sent in to bat, but were rescued by a 71-run partnership between Aadi Ramsaran and Darrius Batoosingh. Batoosingh scored 41 off 62 deliveries before he was bowled by medium pacer Zarell Harding, but Ramsaran found a worthy ally in Christiano Ramanan, with the pair adding 56 runs for the fifth wicket.

Once Ramsaran was eventually trapped lbw by Renaldo Bourne af-

ter scoring 65 off 96 balls, inclusive of five sixes, to take the score to 174 for six, T&T lost their last four wickets for just 20 runs with Bourne snaring 3-44, Justin Parris, 2-30, and Jahidi Hinds, 2-33.

Daron Dhanraj and Ra’ed Ali Khan then carved through Barbados’ top order to leave them floundering at 49 for four in the 17th over. T&T kept taking wickets at crucial stages and Barbados found themselves perilously placed at 100 for seven, before Raphael Lovell, who topscored with 40, led a lower-order fightback.

Along with Bourne, who made 17,

and Asher Branford, who contributed 13, Barbados got within 23 runs of their target, until Ali Khan dismissed the latter to end the contest. Dhanraj ended with figures of 3-12, Ali Khan took 3-15, and Renaldo Fournillier supported with 2-46.

At the National Cricket Centre, Jamaica secured their first win of the tournament, while leaving Guyana winless as they cruised to victory by six wickets via the Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method.

In a match that was significantly affected by rain, Guyana could only muster 118 for six in the 21 overs they were allotted.

Shamar Apple hit the topscore of 31 from 30 balls, but no other batsman made more than 20, with Jamaica’s 29 extras being the next highest contributor.

Leg spinner Ramnaresh Singh was the pick of the bowlers with 3-25. Behind an unbeaten 57 from Odane Binns, Jamaica comfortably reached 122 for four off 19.5 overs. Binns faced 58 balls and struck three sixes and one four during his match-winning knock, and together with Ryan Littleton, who scored an unbeaten 22, they shared an unbroken stand of 51 for the fifth wicket that took their side to victory.



The winning Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Team.

Pollard takes Knight Riders to top of CPL table

Kieron Pollard rolled back the hands of time with a superb half-century that helped the Trinbago Knight Riders earn a close 12-run victory over the St Kitts & Nevis Patriots, to extend their lead at the top of the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League table here on Monday.

The 38-year-old Pollard unleashed his fury on the Patriots’ bowling attack, blasting 65 off just 29 balls, and together with Captain Nicholas Pooran, who also scored a half-century, carried the Knight Riders to 179 for six from their 20 overs after they were sent in to bat at Brian Lara Cricket Academy.

The Patriots looked on track to end the home side’s four-match winning streak, having reached 96 without loss in the 11th over, but they struggled to score runs thereafter and were limited to 167 for six in 20 overs.

It gave the Knight Riders their fifth win in as many matches and fourth at home, and took them to 12 points

from their seven matches — two points clear of the Saint Lucia Kings who have also played seven games. There was no flying start this time around from the Knight Riders’ opening pair of Colin Munro and Alex Hales, though, with both falling cheaply to leave the home side 27 for two in the fifth over.

Darren Bravo and Pooran put on 51 runs for the third wicket, until spinner Navin Bidaise broke the partnership by dismissing Bravo for a pedestrian 21 off 25 balls.

Pollard, the Player of the Match, joined his skipper and the two transformed the complexion of the match during a 90-run partnership that spanned eight overs.

The powerfully built Pollard took some time to get going, scoring 12 runs off the first 12 balls he faced. However, he shifted gears almost instantly, hitting Bidaise for three sixes in the 15th over.

Pollard then brought up his half-century in the next over off 21 deliveries

by smashing spinner Waqar Salamkheil for four consecutive sixes. Shortly after, Pooran reached his 50 off 33 balls with a single off Naseem Shah, but they both fell in the space of five balls as the Patriots fought back to limit the damage at the death.

In all, Pollard clobbered eight sixes and two fours while Pooran hit four fours and three sixes.

Jason Holder was the best bowler with 2-25.

Needing to score at exactly eight runs an over, the Patriots were given a perfect start by openers Evin Lewis and Andre Fletcher, with the two adding 96 runs for the first wicket. But once Edward struck to dismiss Lewis for 42 off 25 balls the Patriots lost all of their momentum.

Alick Athanaze scored 18 off 14 balls before he lost his wicket to Mohammad Amir, and when Fletcher was bowled by Usman Tariq for a well-played 67 off 54 balls the Patriots had slipped to 128 for three in the

16th over.

Holder scored just seven, Kyle Mayers made three, and Jyd Goolie was dismissed for a first ball duck, to see them crumble to 144 for six in the 19th over.

Edward ended with figures of 3-30, while Amir took 2-29.



Kieron Pollard

SALT RAKERS AQUATIC CLUB ANNOUNCES EXCITING MINI-TRIATHLON FOR OCTOBER

The Turks and Caicos sporting calendar is set to heat up this fall as the Salt Rakers Aquatic Club prepares to host its highly anticipated Mini-Triathlon on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at The Bight Park Beach, Grace Bay.

The event, which begins promptly at 8:00 a.m., is designed to challenge athletes of all levels while encouraging community participation and support. Known for its dedication to swimming and multi-sport development, the Salt Rakers Aquatic Club is inviting everyone — from young first-timers to seasoned competitors — to test their endurance and push their limits in this fun yet competitive triathlon format.

Distances Tailored for Every Age Group

The Mini-Triathlon will be divided into three categories, ensuring that participants of all ages have a chance to shine:

- 9–11 years: 100m swim, ½ mile bike, ½ mile run
- 12–15 years: 200m swim, 1 mile bike, 1 mile run
- 16 years & older: 500m swim, 1 ½ mile bike, 1 ½ mile run

Organizers have emphasized that the triathlon is open to beginners, seasoned professionals, and relay teams, ensuring inclusivity and community spirit are at the heart of



the competition. Families are also encouraged to come out and support the athletes as they race along the pristine waters and scenic roads of Grace Bay.

Building Excitement and Community Spirit

With triathlons gaining popularity worldwide, the Salt Rakers Mini-Triathlon is not only about competition but also about building confidence and camaraderie. “We want our athletes to feel supported, moti-

vated, and inspired to push themselves,” organizers noted, urging residents and visitors alike to “Come Cheer On Our Athletes at the Salt Rakers Mini-Triathlon!”

Spectators can expect an atmosphere of excitement as swimmers dive into the turquoise waters of Grace Bay, cyclists take to the road in a test of speed and stamina, and runners charge toward the finish line cheered on by friends, families, and fellow

athletes.

Training and Preparation

For many young athletes, this will be their first taste of multi-sport competition, and the distances have been carefully chosen to balance challenge with achievability. Meanwhile, experienced triathletes and fitness enthusiasts will view the event as an opportunity to sharpen their skills and set personal bests. The inclusion of relay teams also means participants can share the challenge with friends, making the event accessible to those who may be stronger in one discipline than another.

How to Register

The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club is encouraging early sign-ups to secure a spot. Interested participants can email saltrakers@gmail.com for registration details or call (649) 241-1272 for more information.

A Sporting Highlight for 2025

As October approaches, anticipation is building for what promises to be one of the most vibrant sporting highlights of the year in Turks and Caicos. With the crystal-clear waters of Grace Bay as its stage, the Salt Rakers Mini-Triathlon offers not just a test of athletic ability, but a celebration of community, health, and the power of sport.

Beaches Turks and Caicos Champions Youth Development through Sports

Sports play a vital role in the Turks and Caicos Islands; bringing communities together and promoting values of teamwork, discipline and resilience. Beaches Turks and Caicos, the Caribbean’s leading all-inclusive family resort, is committed to supporting youth development both on and off the playing field and creating well-rounded individuals who can thrive in various aspect of life.

This commitment is embedded in the resort’s community outreach initiatives, many of which are supported by the Sandals Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Sandals Resorts. From athletics to academics, Beaches ensures that young people are given opportunities to discover and nurture their talents.

Managing Director, James McAnally highlighted the resort’s philosophy, “at Beaches Turks & Caicos, we believe in holistic growth. Athletic and co-curricular opportunities are just as important as career development because they help build discipline, teamwork and resilience. These qualities serve individuals well in any job or walk of life. Supporting sports is one of the ways we create authentic human connections with our community.”

Beaches demonstrates this belief through its role as title sponsor of the Men’s Provo Premier League, the islands’ top tier football competition. The resort also contributes to a wide range of local sporting initiatives, including the Provo Cricket League, the Red-Hot Challenge, the Turks & Caicos Softball Association, the TCI Football Association and the Let’s Move TCI Softball and Netball competitions.

In addition, Beaches supports wellness and health-focused initiatives to include annual sponsorship of the Jadot Golf Tournament, which benefits the Turks and



Official openign of the Juba Sound basketball court by Beaches Turks and Caicos and Sandals Foundation

Caicos Health and Wellness Foundation. These relationships reflect the resort’s long term commitment to supporting young athletes and strengthening community well-being.

For Beaches, however, the commitment goes beyond financial sponsorship. Team member involvement is central to the resort’s approach, with employees actively participating in community events and leagues. From competing in the Red Cross “Red Hot” Challenge to joining local cricket and softball tournaments, Beaches team members proudly represent the resort while building stronger ties with their community.

Human Resources Manager Owenta Coleby emphasized this point, “our team members don’t just work here; they live here and they love this community. When they participate in sporting events, they connect with their neighbours, build teamwork and have fun together. It’s a powerful way for us to show that we are

part of the fabric of the Turks and Caicos Islands.”

Public Relations Manager, Orville Morgan, added that the resort’s involvement is rooted in presence and genuine care, “supporting sports in the Turks and Caicos isn’t only about perceptions; it’s about showing up. Whether we are funding a league, cheering from the sidelines or playing on the field ourselves, our goal is always to strengthen individuals and demonstrate that Beaches is committed to these islands and their people.”

Ultimately, Beaches Turks and Caicos’ investment in sports underscores a broader mission to uplift individuals, support youth development and create opportunities for growth that extend well beyond the workplace. Through its support of sporting activities, the resort will continue to help young people unlock their potential and build stronger, healthier communities for the future.



Members of the Sports Commission and the Softball Association receive donations from Beaches Turks and Caicos resort guest



Training in earnest

TCIFA Launches Bigger Game Academy

The Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) announced the official launch of the 2025 Bigger Game Academy, heralding another significant milestone in youth football development across the region.

This initiative, realized through partnerships with Concacaf and the Turks and Caicos Islands Ministry of Education, aims to foster social cohesion, teamwork, trust, resilience, effort, discipline, respect, and healthy living by broadening access to football and social responsibility programs.

Each school/community institution will run a comprehensive 10-week program, built on three strategic pillars: "On the Pitch – Access to Play," "Leveling the Playing Field – Diversity and Inclusion," and "Sustainable Solutions – Growth and Health."

With participation from over 21 schools across the Turks and Caicos Islands, The Bigger Game Academy commenced with a specialized training session for teachers and coaches in Providenciales on August 28. A total of 20 coaches attended the event. Each school received essential gear and equipment to effectively implement the program. This training was designed to empower local teachers to become coaches using state-of-the-art methodologies and resources, ensuring they can nurture young football enthusiasts effectively. By investing in the training and development of these coaches, the academy commits to sustainable growth and a promising future for football in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Local facilitators included Dane Ritchie (TCIFA Technical Director), Yunelsis Rodriguez Baez (TCIFA Director of Women's Football), Damien Grant (TCIFA Head of Coaching Education), and Olivia Graveley (Director of the Grand Turk Football Program). Concacaf representatives present were Cristian Cubillas (Concacaf Development Senior Manag-



From left – Concacaf Coach Educator Andre Virtue; Marco Santilian, Concacaf Coach Educator; Olivia Graveley, Director of the Grand Turk Football Program; (TCIFA) General Secretary, Tamara Hall-Worme; Yunelsis Rodriguez Baez, TCIFA Director of Women's Football; Tashana Vincent - Concacaf Coach Educator; Damien Grant (TCIFA Head of Coaching Education); Cristian Cubillas - Senior Development Manager; and Dane Ritchie, Technical Director of the TCIFA.

er), and instructors, Andre Virtue, Tashana Vincent, and Marco Santilian.

To celebrate the launch, a vibrant football festival was held on August 29, 2025 at the TCIFA National Academy in Providenciales. This event featured a variety of football activities, uniting young aspiring grassroots footballers from across the island. The festival involved a morning filled with fun, excitement, and inspiration, laying the groundwork for the next generation of football stars.

"We are thrilled to have once again partnered with Concacaf and the TCI Ministry of Education to bring the Bigger

Game Academy to the Turks and Caicos Islands," said TCIFA President Sonia Fulford. "Our mission is to provide young athletes with the tools and opportunities they need to succeed both on and off the field. Seeing the enthusiasm and dedication of the participants during the festival was truly inspiring. We are confident that this initiative will have a lasting impact on the youth, equipping them with essential skills that extend beyond football," she added.

The Bigger Game Academy represents a transformative step forward in the region's sporting landscape, promoting

not only athletic prowess but also personal growth, teamwork, and leadership. This initiative underscores a shared commitment to nurturing talent and celebrating the beautiful game throughout the Caribbean.

Deputy Director of Education, Ms. Elsiann Delancy commented, "The Department of Education within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture thrive on building partnerships that provide our students and teachers with opportunities to succeed through sports. The Bigger Game initiative, hosted by the TCI Football Association, offers opportunities to build teamwork, resilience, and leadership through sport.

"We are confident that this programme will strengthen Physical Education in our schools and promote personal growth, collaboration, and school spirit across our institutions. Training for our outer island schools will be scheduled soon, ensuring that every student in the Turks and Caicos Islands can benefit from this transformative initiative."

Dane Ritchie, Technical Director of TCIFA, stated, "The Bigger Game Academy program provides a fantastic opportunity for schools and community institutions to be better equipped with the requisite coaching education as well as football equipment to be able to create lasting impact in the lives of the students/players they will deliver the program to.

"The Bigger Game Academy program uses football as the tool to create a positive social impact on students/players by focusing on many social skills such as decision making, communication, self confidence, collaboration, leadership, problem solving and team building skills. "The TCIFA is grateful for the support from Concacaf and the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Social Services for the opportunity to make an impact in the lives of our youths across the Turks and Caicos Islands. This will change lives."